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UNTAC Welcomes Japan's Law on Sending Troops

OW1706092592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 17 KYODO—The head of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cambodia welcomed Wednesday Japan's new legislation facilitating overseas dispatch of the Japanese military under the U.N. umbrella and said hundreds of Japanese military engineers are needed in Cambodia.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), also said he hopes a ministerial conference in Tokyo next Monday on Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction will serve to convince the extremist Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction not to derail the peace process.

Akashi, who arrived in Japan Wednesday to help prepare for the conference, made the remarks in a speech to the Asian Affairs Research Council at a Tokyo hotel.

Akashi said that with passage of the legislation on Monday, "now Japan's face has finally become visible and I think it's a good thing."

He said that while some Asian countries have expressed concern about the overseas dispatch of the Japanese military, Japan's absence from U.N. peacekeeping operations is untenable considering the presence of other major countries and Japan's increasing international responsibilities.

Akashi said he looks forward to Japanese contributions of personnel to the massive U.N. operation under way in Cambodia, as well as to U.N. peacekeeping activities unfolding in Yugoslavia and other hot spots around the world, to the extent possible with the new legislation.

With regard to Cambodia, the 61-year-old U.N. career official said UNTAC is ready to receive a group of several hundred Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) engineers, as well as seven to eight military observers serving in their individual capacities.

Akashi said that UNTAC may also require Japanese helicopter crews to transport materials once the approaching monsoon season makes ground transport difficult and in some areas impossible.

He said that if there are future shortages of military medical teams, Japan may be asked to send personnel in that field as well.

Akashi also asked for at least 75 Japanese to serve as civilian police and at least 50, and as many as 100, personnel to serve as monitors for the general elections now scheduled for spring 1993.

Referring to the June 22 ministerial conference in Tokyo on rehabilitation and reconstruction in Cambodia, Akashi said he hopes the forum would also serve to rally international opinion to demand smooth implementation of the Paris peace accord reached last October among the four Cambodian factions and endorsed by their respective supporters and other concerned countries.

He said UNTAC is confronting a host of problems due to "resistance" on the part of the Khmer Rouge, which he repeatedly called the "Pol Pot faction."

The reference was to the faction's shadow leader, under whose 1975-78 rule of Cambodia hundreds of thousands of people were systematically killed. Its rule ended after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and installed the present government in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, insisting that Vietnamese forces are still in the country, have refused to follow the other three factions in entering into Phase 2 of the peace process, namely the disarmament and regrouping of the various armed forces in specified areas under U.N. supervision.

Akashi rejected Khmer Rouge demands that UNTAC must first verify the complete removal of all Vietnamese personnel and readjust the powers of the four-party Supreme National Council (SNC).

He said that to overcome the problems presented by the Khmer Rouge, it is important to rally international opinion and to solicit the support of countries believed to have influence over the Khmer Rouge, namely China and Thailand.

Akashi said measures should be taken to alleviate the traditional Cambodian wariness of Vietnamese intentions, which he said is being politically exploited by the Khmer Rouge.

He said other steps should be taken to address the Khmer Rouge's criticism that UNTAC favors the Phnom Penh Government and its claims that foreign aid to Cambodia at the present stage would serve to strengthen one faction at the expense of another.

Akashi said it must be remembered that the Khmer Rouge leaders are influenced in their thinking both by Stalinism and the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

UN Conference Supports Extension of NPT

OW1706122592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Hiroshima, June 17 KYODO—There was widespread support at a U.N. disarmament conference Wednesday for extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995, a delegate reported.

"As the pact is continuing to gain new member states, many delegates to the conference noted the need to maintain the NPT as an international regime," Ryukichi Imai, former Japanese ambassador to Mexico, told a news conference.

The treaty came into force in 1970 and calls for a conference to discuss its extension upon expiry in 1995.

On the third day of the U.N. conference on disarmament issues, participants split into two groups to respectively discuss behind closed doors nonproliferation of mass-destruction weapons and confidence-building measures for the Asia-Pacific region.

One working group addressed itself to how the spread of nuclear weapons and technologies can be checked in the wake of Wednesday's agreement between the United States and Russia to drastically reduce strategic nuclear arms.

A number of delegates queried the underlying philosophy of a U.S. refusal to discontinue underground nuclear tests.

Stephen R. Hanmer, deputy director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, was quoted as saying the United States should continue tests to protect Western nations and democracy, as well as its own soil.

The U.S. is a ratifier of the partial test-ban treaty that forbids nuclear tests in the atmosphere and under water.

With delegates from the two Koreas sitting at the same table, the other group spent a large amount of time discussing problems of the Korean peninsula, according to James Cotton, senior research fellow at the Australian National University.

To ease the tension on the peninsula, one participant called for closer cooperation among the countries of Northeast Asia, giving the example of recent meetings to discuss development of marine resources in the area, Cotton said.

Outside the conference, John Gee, a senior official of Australia's Department of Affairs and Trade, said North Korea should cooperate fully with International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Asked about the perception the NPT only maintains the disparity between the nuclear "haves and have-nots," Gee said, "I reject the categorization decisively."

"Article 6 (of the NPT) makes it very clear that there is an obligation on all members in the international community" to work closely toward achieving complete and general disarmament, he said.

Gee said if that does not happen, "it's not a fault of the treaty, or the parties of the treaty."

He and many other delegates called the Hiroshima conference "very productive" for security in Asia-Pacific region.

The groups will submit summary reports to the chairman of the conference Thursday before the four-day session is wrapped up.

Japan

Akashi Views Proposed PKO Facility in Okinawa

OW1806063492 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 18 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—Special Representative Yasushi Akashi of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) gave an interview to RYUKYU SHIMPO on 17 June. He expounded on his view on "the creation of a PKO training center and stockpiling facility for materials and equipment in Okinawa" which he made during a meeting with Prime Minister Miyazawa in May, when he was in Japan to testify as an unsworn witness in the House of Councillors Special Committee on International Peace Cooperation.

During the interview, Akashi said, "Okinawa is located in the southernmost part of Japan. It is a point of contact with Asia, and is also close to China. I recommended (Okinawa) because it would be easier for people from foreign countries to get there." He explained that he chose Okinawa because of its geographical location. With regard to opposition from Okinawa, he said, "If Okinawa is to become a major stronghold of peace in Asia, it would be good for it to act as a new base for international understanding which will serve as a point of contact between Japan and the world. This rather hasty reaction is regrettable."

As to the present condition of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and the Okinawan people's sentiments, he said, "I know them as a matter of common sense." He seemed perplexed at why the issue had been linked with U.S. bases. He asked, "(the statement) was not made in relation to U.S. bases. How come this came to be linked with the issue?"

While he admitted that the plan to build a PKO personnel training center and stockpiling facility in Asia is still "a vision lacking concrete form," he showed confidence in the eventual realization of the plan, saying "in five years, some people will come to realize that about one-third of the 'vision' will have been realized."

ODA Increased 'Nearly 20 Percent' in 1991

OW1806082392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Japan's financial aid to developing countries rose nearly 20 percent in 1991, surpassing 10 billion dollars for the first time, government officials said Thursday.

The government provided 11,033 million dollars in official development assistance (ODA) for the year, up 19.6 percent from 1990, the officials said.

Whether Japan resumed the status of the world's top ODA donor, eclipsing the United States, is not known yet because U.S. figures have not come out, said a Finance Ministry official.

Japan fell behind the U.S. in ODA in 1990.

Bilateral assistance increased 27.8 percent to 8,869 million dollars, while contributions to international organizations fell 5.2 percent to 2,163 million dollars, the officials said.

The sharp rise in bilateral aid was caused mainly by 2 billion dollars in loans Japan made to the three Middle East countries that suffered most from the Persian Gulf war, a ministry official said.

The Middle East assistance, most of which was transferred in 1991, helped total bilateral loans jump 39.7 percent to 5,477 million dollars.

Of the total ODA, 38.5 percent was provided as grants, down from 39.8 percent in 1990, the ministry official said.

The yen's appreciation of 7.66 percent against the dollar also boosted the ODA in dollar terms.

Japan's ODA, excluding assistance to East European countries, rose 20.8 percent to 10,951 million dollars or 0.32 percent of the nation's gross national product, up from 0.31 percent.

The development assistance committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) uses figures that exclude aid to the former Soviet bloc to compile its annual list of the top ODA suppliers.

Japan's 1991 ODA increase has brought well within reach the government's internationally pledged target of 50 billion dollars in assistance from 1988 to 1992, the official said.

The country had provided 38.35 billion in ODA through 1991, leaving 11.65 billion dollars for 1992 to achieve the goal, he said.

"I think we can attain the target unless the yen declines very sharply," he said.

Kato on Fighting, Peacekeeping in Cambodia

OW1806105492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The refusal by the Khmer Rouge to disarm is unlikely to deter Japan from joining U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, despite legal requirements of a prior ceasefire agreement, the top government spokesman indicated Thursday.

Japan is giving serious consideration to whether preconditions for the dispatch of peacekeeping personnel are met "based on the premise that we will dispatch peacekeeping personnel to Cambodia," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

Kato made the comments amid reports of renewed fighting between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh Government forces.

According to the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Law enacted by parliament Monday, Japan can only participate in peacekeeping activities if there is a ceasefire agreement between warring parties and if there are assurances that U.N. operations will maintain impartiality.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), has been critical of the Khmer Rouge, saying it appears to be leading an offensive.

Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference that even though the Khmer Rouge is refusing to disarm, it has not rejected the Paris peace agreement arrived at last fall.

He also noted Akashi has said UNTAC operations will continue despite the Khmer Rouge's lack of cooperation.

The four warring factions were to begin assembling in cantonments Saturday as part of the demobilization process but the Khmer Rouge refused, saying they want verifications that all Vietnamese forces have withdrawn.

Akashi has said there is no evidence of Vietnamese troops still in Cambodia.

Kato also expressed regret the Khmer Rouge will not be represented at an international reconstruction conference scheduled to open in Tokyo on Monday.

But he said the absence would not detract from the meeting's significance.

"There will be areas that we can move ahead with and areas where we can't," Kato said but declined to elaborate.

He said he hopes the ministerial conference, which will include leaders from the United States, Indonesia, and Australia, as well as the three factions, will encourage the maintenance of peace.

The Khmer Rouge, which is widely held to be responsible for killing more than one million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979, has objected to assistance that it believes will favor the Phnom Penh government.

Kato said Japan has taken note of a request made by Akashi Wednesday for a 400 to 700 member engineer corps from Japan's Self-Defense Forces, as well as 75 police officers and some 50 election monitors.

The government is planning to dispatch a mission to Cambodia in the near future to see what role Japan can play in the peacekeeping operations.

Social Democrats Criticized Over Diet Tactics

OW1706154892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 17 KYODO—Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki criticized the Social Democratic Party (SDP) on Wednesday for deliberately delaying votes on a U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill in the Diet and then submitting members' resignations when the delaying tactics failed.

Watanuki made the criticism in a meeting with Japanese economic leaders two days after a government-sponsored bill to enable Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join the U.N. peacekeeping operations was passed in the House of Representatives.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe and United Social Democratic Party (USDP) representative Satsuki Eda tendered letters of parliamentary resignation on behalf of a total of 141 SDP and USDP members to lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi on Monday.

Watanuki said the governing party cannot trust the SDP, which he said had resigned from the lower house without endorsement by their voters.

Watanuki said, "the SDP has no basic policies or way forward," adding Japan's largest opposition party is attempting to conduct Diet business by flattering persons who oppose the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill.

In the same meeting, Watanuki said parliament will close June 21 and no lower house election will be held.

Meanwhile in a street speech in central Tokyo, SDP leader Tanabe appealed for the dissolution of the 512-seat lower house.

Tanabe said the Japanese people should not allow SDF personnel to be sent to Cambodia to join the U.N. peacekeeping missions despite the passage of the peacekeeping legislation through the Diet.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana, who accompanied Tanabe, demanded that the LDP and its two opposition allies agree in a plenary session of the lower house to accept the resignation of the SDP and USDP members, saying Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa should dissolve the lower house for a general election.

The two opposition parties referred to—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—joined the LDP in voting for the peacekeeping bill which will allow Japanese troops to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Miyazawa has reiterated his rejection of a dissolution of the lower house and the holding of simultaneous elections for both houses. A House of Councillors election is scheduled for July 26.

The SDP's lower house parliamentarians have already begun to return to their constituencies across the country to appeal to voters to support the party's opposition to the new law and the holding of a general election.

SDP leaders have said voters should decide through their votes whether the law should have been passed.

Amid the sharp political confrontation between the LDP and the SDP, LDP Diet Policy Committee Chairman Seiroku Kajiyama told a meeting of his counterparts

from three parties—the SDP, Komeito and the DSP—that the governing party will not act alone in submitting a political reform bill to the Diet.

Kajiyama was quoted as saying the LDP will not present the bill to the Diet because it was made by the ruling and the opposition parties acting together.

The ruling and opposition parties have agreed on a bill that would make the assets of politicians public and punish politicians accepting bribes.

Abe Reportedly Delivered Bribes to LDP Members

OW1706153592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 17 (KYODO)—Former State Minister Fumio Abe delivered 90 million yen received from Kyowa Co., a defunct steel-frame maker, to 10 to 30 ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members, investigating sources said Wednesday.

Abe told police he gave the money to other LDP legislators as a leader of the faction headed by Kiichi Miyazawa, now prime minister, the sources said.

Abe is under indictment on charges of having taken 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa's former Vice President Goro Moriguchi.

The sources said the 69-year-old former state minister and director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies has declined to disclose the names of the LDP members to whom the money was paid.

Abe also told police that he had the agency's officials explain a plan for new road construction in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido after Moriguchi asked him to get information on the subject, they said.

The sources said Abe made the remarks during investigations by police just before he was indicted February 1.

In his trial, which opens Friday, Abe is expected to insist he received the money from Kyowa not as bribes but as mere political contributions, the sources said.

Prosecutors say Moriguchi on various occasions gave Abe a total of 530 million yen, including the 90 million yen in alleged bribes, when Abe was in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu from August 1989 to February 1990.

Abe's arrest in January on bribery charges was the first such arrest since 1976 when several Diet members, including former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, were arrested in connection with bribes paid by the giant U.S. Lockheed aircraft firm.

Upper House Panel Okays Financial Reform Bill

OW1806101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The House of Councillors finance committee approved Thursday a financial reform bill that would allow banks and stock brokerages to enter each other's turf through subsidiaries.

The bill is expected to be enacted on approval at an upper house plenary session Friday to usher in the largest financial reform in Japan since the end of World War II, government sources said.

The committee also approved a 10-point attachment to the bill, jointly sponsored by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition Social Democratic Party, Komeito, Rengo Sangiin, and Democratic Socialist Party.

The attachment calls on the financial industries to offer products and services matching the needs of smaller industries and individual customers through the reform and try to prevent confusion stemming from increased competition, among other things.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, answering questions before the committee, emphasized the need for Japan to create an open financial system.

The committee also unanimously approved a revision of a law on money lending that intends to tighten government controls on nonbank financial institutions.

Miyazawa Views Supplementary Budget Possibility

OW1806105892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa suggested Thursday he is monitoring the economic situation in view of compiling a supplementary budget.

He said he would take "necessary measures at the necessary time," suggesting he recognizes a supplementary budget will be necessary in the second half of the fiscal year, as a result of massive front-loading of the public works projects in the first half of the year.

But he also said there is no concrete plan for drafting a large-scale supplementary budget "right now."

Miyazawa made the remarks at a meeting of the House of Representatives finance committee.

On the question of funding Japan's official development assistance in the field of environment conservation, Miyazawa said "conditions for introducing an 'environment tax' have yet to be set."

In this connection, the prime minister ruled out the possibility of boosting the consumption tax for the purpose of environment protection, saying the consumption tax is a kind of general tax and cannot be used for a specific purpose.

Decontrol on Institutional Investments Urged

OW1806073592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The government should ease restrictions on institutional stock investment to help revitalize the depressed Japanese stock market, Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) President Minoru Nagaoka said Thursday.

"It is necessary to review restrictions on institutional stock investment, as well as promoting investment in stocks among possible individual investors," Nagaoka said.

"There are basically no restrictions in other countries in the world on stock investment by institutions," he said.

Restrictions at present applying in Japan on stock investments by institutions such as life insurance companies include a requirement that they keep such investments to less than 30 percent of their total assets.

Nagaoka wants to lift such restrictions and encourage institutions to become more involved in the stock market, which has been suffering from a severe slump in prices.

Keidanren Urges Corporate Investments Tax Cuts

OW1806102092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The government should cut tax on corporate investment projects and increase spending for public works, the head of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said Thursday.

In the wake of another major slide on Tokyo Stock Market Thursday, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the influential business leaders' organization, told reporters that the lingering stock slump cannot be helped unless a brighter prospect is set for recovery of the domestic economy.

Stocks on the Tokyo market Thursday renewed this year's record low for the second straight day, with the blue chip Nikkei stock average barely maintaining the 16,000 line.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, have also made demands for tax cuts on corporate investment projects.

The proposed tax cut is to be applied to spending on energy- and labor-saving facilities primarily at smaller companies, which were hit hard by the economic slowdown.

Hiraiwa said a cut in the official discount rate and a cut in income tax, which were suggested by some economists and business leaders, cannot be a locomotive power for the economy.

A key rate cut would instead invite adverse effects, like a decline in the yen's value on foreign exchanges, he said.

Hiraiwa said that stock price declines this week were probably triggered by the central bank's short-term survey on business sentiment (tankan) released last week, which showed a gloomy outlook on Japan's economic climate among Japanese employers.

Hiraiwa said he expected Japanese stock prices would hover low for a considerably long time, between 16,000 and 18,000 levels, adding that Thursday's level should be close to the bottom.

He said he expects the current economic adjustment will take time and go slowly, brushing aside such expectations that domestic economy would bottom out from autumn to the end of year.

Minister Hata Comments on Stock Market's Future

OW1806045092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Thursday the Tokyo stock market will tide over its current ordeal and eventually rebound with the help of the government's economy-boosting steps taken so far this year.

Assessing the renewed slump in stock prices, Hata told the House of Councillors Finance Committee that the market's tumble results from uncertainty surrounding the future course of the Japanese economy.

But he said, "though the economy is in the hardest phase at the moment, the stock market will recover due to the government's fiscal steps and (the Bank of Japan's) monetary relaxation."

The government adopted a package of pump-priming measures March 31, and the BOJ [Bank of Japan] cut the official discount rate by .75 percentage point to 3.75 percent the following day.

As the economic outlook is still cloudy, as shown by the recent "tankan" survey of business sentiment by the central bank, the Tokyo Stock Market remains in the doldrums, with the yardstick Nikkei Index sinking to its lowest level so far this year on Thursday morning.

Hata's remarks apparently were intended to stave off calls for further easing of credit by the central bank.

Secondary Measures To Boost Economy Considered

OW1806044892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The government is closely watching the movement of stock prices, the top government spokesman said Thursday, as shares on the Tokyo stock exchange (TSE) continued falling after hitting a low in nearly six years on Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato also indicated that the government is considering introducing further

pump-priming measures to stimulate the economy toward the summer or in the autumn.

Kato's remarks indicated that the government is favorable toward compiling a supplementary budget, but he did not say when such a budget would be introduced. Analysts said the government is believed to be considering introducing a supplementary budget centered on public works.

Kato indicated that any measures taken by the government would not be aimed at directly supporting stock prices.

The spokesman said he did not think the turbulence in the Diet surrounding passage of the U.N. peacekeeping law was a major factor in the fall in stock prices.

The government approved a package of pump-priming measures at the end of March, and the official discount rate was cut by the Bank of Japan on April 1.

Auto Association Head Urges Income Tax Cut

OW1806115792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association on Thursday called on the government to reduce income taxes to revive the slumping automotive industry.

Yutaka Kume, who is also president of Nissan Motor Co., made his remarks at a news conference here.

Kume said the government should prepare a large-scale supplementary budget, cut interest rates, and lower taxes as a means of resuscitating the overall economy.

He also said the automobile industry was revising downward production plans but the production adjustment has not gone well due to poor car sales.

Unsecured Personal Credit Ceiling To Be Lower

OW1706070792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 17 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance plans to lower the ceiling on unsecured credit card loans in order to check increasing personal bankruptcies, ministry officials said Wednesday.

The officials said the ministry also is asking credit and personal finance companies to join credit information agencies to prevent abuses of credit cards by individual borrowers.

Under the ministry's existing directive, finance companies are allowed to lend up to 500,000 yen or 10 percent of annual income of borrowers.

The officials said the ministry plans to further lower the ceiling.

They said individual bankruptcies caused by excessive loans from credit companies totaled about 23,400 in 1991.

The officials warned that such bankruptcies for this year appear certain to exceed a record of 24,300 in 1984, when consumer finances were the focus of social attention.

There are about 36,500 credit card companies and personal finance firms across the country, of which only 24.5 percent subscribe to credit information agencies.

The officials said three major credit information organizations cooperate with each other, exchanging inkormation on borrowers.

Survey Finds Pessimism About Economy Spreading

OW1806120092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Pessimism about the economy is spreading to outlying areas of Japan, where business leaders want the government to draft a supplementary budget and act to support small businesses, a government survey found Thursday.

The Economic Planning Agency survey, conducted in late May, found pervasive sentiment that the economy is slowing in 10 prefectural capitals around Japan, a turnaround from the previous survey taken last November.

The previous survey showed bearish sentiment about the economy only in Japan's biggest cities, such as Tokyo and Osaka.

The latest survey also showed industrial production in local areas declining, as corporations become increasingly hesitant to invest in plant and equipment.

But some areas reported robust economic activity, as local business leaders reported business sentiment is better than in metropolitan areas due to smaller effects of the bursting of the "bubble economy," the report said.

The bubble economy refers to a financial and real estate speculation boom in the late 1980s amid extremely low interest rates.

The 10 cities covered by the survey were Sapporo, Niigata, Maebashi, Tsu, Fukui, Nara, Kobe, Hiroshima, Kochi, and Kumamoto.

Farm Panel Begins Talks on Rice Price Formula

OW1806023092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The rice price council began a two-day session Thursday to discuss the formula by which the producer prices of rice are calculated.

The discussion of the rice pricing formula comes in response to a request for advice on the matter from Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Masami Tanabu.

The council, an advisory panel to Tanabu, will scrutinize the calculation method, which focuses on farmers with higher productivity than average in nine areas nationwide.

Many producers are opposed to the current formula, claiming it does not compensate them for rising costs.

A possible reduction of subsidies for rice that is not subject to government price control is also expected to be discussed at the meeting, officials said.

The panel will report to the minister Friday on its discussions.

The ministry, having received the council's advice, will consult the panel again on June 25 concerning specific producer rice prices, at which the government buys rice from growers, for the current fiscal year, which began April 1.

The ministry is expected to discuss lowering the rice price, citing higher productivity of farmers, the officials said.

Strike Cancels All Domestic JAS Flights

OW1806014592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—All domestic flights of Japan Air System (JAS) will be canceled Thursday because JAS labor unions went on strike Thursday morning after failing to reach agreement in talks with management on summer bonuses and working conditions, officials said.

International flights of JAS will operate normally, however, the officials said.

It is the first time JAS unions have gone on strike since November 1983.

Unions at Japan Airlines (JAL) and Air Nippon (ANK) decided to cancel planned strikes on Thursday after accepting management offers on the issues.

Tokyo Plans To Sell JR Shares Internationally

OW1806014492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2353 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The government plans to sell some of its shares in Japan Railways Group (JR) companies on the New York and London markets as well as on domestic stock exchanges, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Thursday.

The Transport Ministry and the JNR (Japanese National Railways) Accounts Settlement Corp. have each decided to sell 100,000 JR shares on both the London and New York markets, in addition to two million shares they plan to sell on domestic markets in the current fiscal year, ending next March 31.

The newspaper said the measure was conceived out of concern that massive sales of JR shares would cause a glut in the Tokyo stock market, and would deal an additional blow to the already flagging prices.

In addition, the newspaper said, the government aims to make the JR name better known among non-Japanese investors.

The government decided in 1989 to start disposing of its JR shares in fiscal 1991 at the latest, but the subsequent collapse of the Tokyo stock market forced it to put the plan on hold.

But with the debts of the settlement corporation swelling to 26.4 trillion yen at the end of March, the government now wants to start selling them as early as possible.

Companies To Exchange Automation Technology

OW1806014692 Tokyo KYODO in English 23:5 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Okuma Corp. of Japan and Allen-Bradley Co. of the United States will exchange their factory automation technologies under a cross-licensing agreement, the NIKKEI SANGYO SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

In the initial step, Okuma, a Nagoya-based machine tool manufacturer, will supply its main shaft motor controlling technology to Allen-Bradley and obtain the latter's manufacturing Automation Protocol (MAP), the industrial daily said.

The two companies will also study the possibility of joint development of new products, it said.

The tie-up comes amid Japan-U.S. friction over machine tool trade. In April, the two countries agreed to extend for another two years the Japanese machine tool industry's five-year "voluntary restraint arrangement" over its exports to the United States, which had expired at the end of last year.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has said it hopes the trade dispute will be resolved through cooperation between the two countries' industries.

Placing Priority on 'Individuals' Lives Proposed

OW1506081892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—A government advisory body has proposed that Japan's postwar systems be reformed with a new emphasis on improving the lives of individuals rather than economic and industrial development, officials said Monday.

The officials said the proposal was contained in a report made public Monday by the Economic Welfare Council, an advisory panel to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The report also proposed reforms of the educational system to ease the intense competition in entrance examinations for elite schools, the officials said.

The council also called for a review of financial systems, which now bar corporations from purchasing their own stocks.

It is time to review Japan's postwar systems aimed at boosting the nation's international competitiveness because of their role in recent financial scandals, the report said.

It will become difficult for Japan to become a member of the international community and tackle environmental problems unless systemic reforms are carried out, the report said.

The report called for reforms of the educational system so that students are given an opportunity to discipline themselves with a sense of obligation and responsibility while avoiding selfishness.

The report urged corporations to re-evaluate the traditional lifetime employment system and promote volunteer activities to step up contributions to society.

Miyazawa Approves Special Budget

OW1806043892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday approved a special outlay of 110 billion yen in the fiscal 1993 budget to improve the quality of people's lives, including academic research on better lifestyles.

Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda obtained Miyazawa's agreement to the allocation of the cash in fiscal 1993, beginning next April 1, ministry officials said.

The newly created outlay will be used to find ways of improving people's living conditions and to promote academic research to support the government's efforts in that area, they said.

Yasuda told Miyazawa that current fiscal conditions do not allow the Finance Ministry to ease the ceiling on budgetary requests by government ministries and agencies in the fiscal 1993 budget.

But he said the ministry would like to give special consideration to spending for achieving a better lifestyle for the people, and the premier endorsed the plan, according to the officials.

Yasuda briefed Miyazawa on progress in the coordination between the Finance Ministry and other ministries over the ceiling.

The ministry plans to announce the ceiling, which will put a cap on the ministries' appropriation requests, next week.

Economic Program Emphasis Viewed

OW1806125692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—A government advisory council will recommend that 60 percent of Japan's public works spending be directed to improvement of the living environment and cultural facilities in the 10 years ending in fiscal 2000, according to a copy of a draft report made available to KYODO News Service on Thursday.

The comparable figure for fiscal 1981 to 1990 was in the range of 50 to 55 percent, council sources said.

The recommendation will be among the targets of the proposed new five-year economic management program for fiscal 1992 to 1996 that the economic council is scheduled to submit to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on June 30, the sources said.

The 29-point draft report emphasized the need to improve the social capital for better living conditions in Japan and to help solve global environmental problems.

To improve the quality of life in Japan, the cost of housing should be lowered to about five times the average annual income of Japanese workers and the annual working time per person should be reduced to 1,800 hours, it said.

The report also called for continued employment of Japanese workers to age 65, compared with the current compulsory retirement age of 60 at most companies.

Regarding foreign labor, it said Japan should accept more skilled and professional workers but urged caution about employment of manual workers, saying it would have a major influence on the Japanese economy.

Concerning Japan's official development assistance (ODA), the report said it should be increased to 1 trillion yen in five years, starting in fiscal 1992.

Miyazawa is expected to present the program at the Munich Summit of seven major industrial nations, starting July 6, after the cabinet approves it late this month, the sources said.

Tokyo Fails To Meet Target for Women Advisers

OW1606101692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 16 KYODO— The government fell short for the second consecutive year in 1991 of reaching its goal of having women make up 10 percent of its advisory councils, the Prime Minister's Office said Tuesday.

Women occupied 9.6 percent of the 4,497 posts on government advisory committees in fiscal 1991, up from 9.0 percent the year before, according to the Women's Affairs Office.

The government had hoped to have women fill 10 percent of the positions by 1990. Mitsuko Horiuchi, director of

Women's Affairs, said at the current rate the government would fail to meet a 15 percent goal set for 1995.

The 0.6 percentage points increase in 1991—the lowest increment in five years—indicated a government appeal issued to the private sector last year to nominate more women was ineffective.

Horiuchi said the composition of the councils mirrors the lack of women in senior positions in society at large. The 200 councils are comprised of experts nominated by government, private groups such as labor unions, and civil servants, who are automatically nominated if they occupy specified government posts.

Ranking first in promotion of women was the Foreign Ministry, with 16 percent, and the Justice Ministry, with 14 percent.

The Home Affairs Ministry, which oversees local administration of services such as education and social welfare, came in last with 2.4 percent, preceded by the Okinawa Development Agency, with 3.3 percent.

Japan introduced the 15 percent target in response to a United Nations recommendation that countries pursue a 30 percent goal for women in leadership positions by 1995.

It adopted the less ambitious target because the U.N. proposal was regarded as unfeasible.

In Japan, women comprise 8.8 percent of management positions, 6.3 percent of parliament, and 3.2 percent of elected local government posts.

North Korea

South Minister's Jun 16 DMZ Remarks Criticized

SK1806045292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Blast of Warmonger"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The "defence minister" of South Korea, vociferating about the "case of armed infiltration", reportedly prattled on June 16 that they would not such "provocation" in the future. [sentence as received]

As for the "case of infiltration" which allegedly took place within the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line late in last month, it was a self-made drama of the South Korean authorities, which has nothing to do with us.

It is a habitual method of the South Korean authorities to fabricate an incident whenever they face a crisis and slander the North in an attempt to find a way out of it.

The desire to achieve national reunification through great national unity is growing more intense than before among the compatriots in the North, the South and overseas after the North-South agreement was adopted and effectuated.

The South Korean authorities, flurried by this, are trying to foster distrust against the North and dampen the aspirations of South Korean people for a peaceful reunification by fabricating "shocking incidents".

Through such tricky incidents the South Korean authorities also seek to divert elsewhere the attention of the South Korean people who are staging a fiercer anti-fascist struggle for democracy with the "presidential elections" slated for the end of this year and thereby to create a favourable condition for the "Democratic Liberal Party" to stay long in power.

South's Plan for Military Buildup Attacked

SK1806042392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0020 GMT 14 Jun 92

[NODONG SINMUN 14 June commentary: "A Faith-Breaching Confrontational Attitude"]

[Text] The South Korean Defense Ministry recently has stated it is too early to reduce troops and cut back military spending under the present conditions, while babbling about the North's nonexistent military threat.

The ministry then said it would increase the puppet armed forces and fighting power of the Navy and Air Force even further in the future.

At a time when the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and South has been adopted and put into effect, the South Korean rulers are about to take such steps, laying bare their criminal intention to invalidate their commitment to nonaggression and to take the road of North-South confrontation and war.

The nonaggression to which the North and South have committed themselves before the nation in an historic agreement states the two sides should not invade the opposing side with armed forces, should settle differing opinions and disputes peacefully through dialogue and negotiations, and that, toward this end, should discontinue the arms race and realize disarmament.

The key to practically guaranteeing the commitment made by the North and South to nonaggression and peace is for the North and South to realize disarmament. Without disarmament, it is impossible to build confidence between the North and South or make headway in talks, cooperation, and exchange for reunification, or achieve the country's peaceful reunification.

Even without this, massive armed forces—unheard of anywhere else in the world—are deployed in the small land of the Korean peninsula, and the two sides' armed forces tensely stand face to face across the Military Demarcation Line.

Such a state of acute military confrontation on the Korean peninsula should be eased, and it can be realized only through disarmament, along with the commitment to nonaggression.

Under no circumstances can tensions be eased through military buildup. Rather, military buildup will intensify the arms race and confrontation and increase the danger of military clashes even further.

Because the North and South have committed themselves to nonaggression, they should not continue the confrontation and arms race that spawns misunderstanding and mistrust between them and stands in the way of peaceful reunification. They should take the road of realizing disarmament according to the national desire and trends of the times.

At a time when sincere implementation of the commitment to nonaggression is required more urgently than ever, the South Korean authorities remain unchanged in their pursuit of confrontation and war, putting spurs to the military buildup. This is an intolerable antipeace and antireunification crime that goes against the people's desire for peace and peaceful reunification and seriously runs counter to the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Although the South Korean authorities refer to somebody else's military threat, it is nothing more than an excuse to justify their policy of confrontation and war.

Military threat on the Korean peninsula comes, in fact, from the South. It is universal knowledge that the South Korean authorities are engaged in a large-scale military buildup in cahoots with outside forces and are conducting daily extremely dangerous military provocations and kicking up rows of war exercises aimed at northward invasion in the sky, on the ground, and at sea.

The South Korean authorities are enthusiastic about military buildup while babbling about the threat from the North, which convinces no one. This is nothing but a premeditated scheme to give up on implementing the nonaggression they have vowed before the nation by provoking us. It has only revealed that the South Korean authorities do not want improved relations between the North and South, national reconciliation and unity, and peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

If the South Korean authorities genuinely hope to relax tensions and achieve peaceful reunification, they should abandon their anachronistic confrontational and war attitude and make a decision for realizing disarmament.

The Korean people, who want detente and peace, will never tolerate or condone the faith-breaching act of the South Korean authorities who are determined to invalidate the commitment to North-South nonaggression and who are about to rush on the road of military buildup and war.

U.S. Push To Open ROK Financial Market Noted

SK1806105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The chairman of the U.S. Economic Council alleged at a South Korea-U.S. financial meeting on June 15 that South Korea should promptly open the financial market if it wants to remain an "exporting competitor", according to a radio report from Seoul.

This is a rigmarole meaning that South Korea should not only totally open its financial market but also leave it at the tender mercy of the U.S. financial monopoly capital.

It is a long time since South Korea was reduced to a "paradise of the U.S. banking" due to flunkeyist treacheries of the authorities.

The "restrictions" taken by the South Korean authorities exist only in form, and it is nothing but a shield for diverting the attention of the people elsewhere.

A "deputy prime minister" of South Korea responded at the meeting by saying South Korea would "push ahead with the self-autonomy and internationalisation of finance at an increasingly high rate." This flattery fully reveals their subserviency to the United States.

South's Red Cross Urged To Return Yi In-mo

SK1806052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0430 GMT 18 Jun 92

["South Side Must Not Flee From Its Humanitarian Responsibility"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the South side's refusal to discuss the question of repatriation of old man Yi In-mo raised by our side at the recent working-level contacts between delegates of the Red Cross organisations from the North and the South.

Noting that unless the question of returning old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, is solved at an early date, he would lose the opportunity of repatriation for good and all, the paper says:

It was unreasonable indeed that the South Korean Red Cross side, claiming to stand for "humanitarianism", has so far turned its face away from the question of returning old man Yi, and is trying to avoid it even today when it is on the order of the day as an urgent question. This is an irresponsible act beyond common sense.

The return of old man Yi is a question that should be solved at an early date in view of the practical requirements of the development of North-South relations.

Even if the South Korean Red Cross side could not take a humanitarian step because of the obstructions of the authorities, though it had been interested in the question in the past, it must take an active approach to the solution of such humanitarian issues as the repatriation of old man Yi at the moment when the North-South agreement has been adopted and effectuated and working-level contacts between Red Cross delegates of the sides started.

The South side's refusal to discuss the question itself makes us doubt whether or not it is an independent humanitarian organisation.

The South Korean Red Cross organisation is rather defending the inhumanitarian acts of the authorities, overlooking the fact that they still refuse to send him back to the northern half of Korea by invoking of the "National Security Law". Judging from this, one cannot but see the South Korean Red Cross as a marionette of the authorities under the signboard of "humanitarianism".

The South side cannot duck its humanitarian responsibility for the return of old man Yi In-mo and must approach bona fide to the solution of the question from the attitude and stance of the Red Cross.

South Korea

U.S.-Russia Summit Impact on Korea Examined

SK1806091792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By Pak Chong-chan]

[Text] Washington, June 18 (YONHAP)—The summit between U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will have a significant impact on resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, and the situation around the Korean peninsula, according to diplomatic analysts in Washington.

In an unexpected move, Yeltsin, in his first summit with Bush, brought up the knotty issue of North Korea's nuclear development program and expressed a willingness to join the United States in deterring North Korean efforts to acquire nuclear weapons.

It was the first time the U.S. and Russian Governments issued a joint statement urging North Korea to accept bilateral inspections with South Korea as well as inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The statement did not bluntly call for scrapping North Korea's nuclear reprocessing facilities, but the mere fact it was made carries an important message.

By issuing the statement jointly with Bush, Yeltsin wanted to show support for Washington's efforts to halt proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Some analysts say the Russian leader seems to have played the North Korean card in an attempt to woo the West, including South Korea, to win substantial assistance to overcome its economic difficulties.

It was no problem for Yeltsin, who declared communism was not only dead but unable to revive in his speech to Congress, to publicly bid goodbye to North Korea.

The fact that Yeltsin, not Bush, raised the topic of North Korea's nuclear program supports this assumption.

It is not clear to what extent the summit dealt with concrete measures, but it is certain the statement will put added pressure on North Korea.

There is no consensus on why Yeltsin touched relatively deeply on the 1983 shootdown of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 in a joint news conference with Bush. But whatever the motives, Yeltsin's remarks hold hope for the families of the 269 victims, 61 of them Americans.

For Seoul, the summit is expected to be instrumental in pushing North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international and bilateral inspections.

For Pyongyang, the turnaround in the Russian attitude means it has less room to resist the outside call for inspections.

Statement Bolsters Seoul-Moscow Ties

SK1806095392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0917 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea welcomed Thursday the U.S.-Russia statement calling for early inter-Korean nuclear inspection as "a big step contributing to bolstering Seoul-Moscow relations."

It also welcomed Russia's decision to grant asylum to North Korean student Kim Myong-se as a significant indication of Moscow's positively changing policies toward the Korean peninsula and the Asia-Pacific.

Kwon Yong-min, director-general of European affairs at the ministry, made the remarks when asked to comment on the events.

South Korea had consulted Russia about issuing a statement on North Korea's nuclear problem ever since the date was set for the U.S.-Russia summit, Kwon said.

Seoul asked that Moscow clear any new discoveries about the downing of a South Korean passenger plane by a Soviet fighter in 1983, and Russian officials said President Boris Yeltsin would discuss them in detail during his visit to Seoul in September.

Science, Technology Accord Signed With Russia

SK1806062592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia signed Thursday a protocol on scientific and technological cooperation, which allows South Korean access to Russia's plan to convert munitions factories into civilian industries.

The accord also covers Moscow's transfer of 26 high technologies, such as iron-based shape memory alloys, to Seoul for commercialization or joint study, the Science and Technology Ministry said.

The protocol was exchanged at the second talks between Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and his Russian counterpart, Boris Saltikov.

They agreed to cooperate in the establishment of a Korean technology-tansfer company in Moscow as well as in Korean participation in projects for transforming 1,500 munitions companies and in an international science and technology center the United States and Western European countries are planning to set up in Russia.

Kim and Saltikov also decided to promote the supply of Russian scientists to Korean enterprises, research centers and universities.

At the first talks last year, Seoul and Moscow agreed to the joint study of 48 projects, 19 of which are being implemented. Seventeen Russian scientists are now working in South Korea.

IAEA Members To Support South Nuclear Position

SK1806013292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Vienna, June 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will urge North Korea to scrap its nuclear reprocessing facilities and undertake simultaneous inspections with the South when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opens its debate Thursday.

At the debate, scheduled to start Thursday afternoon, the United States, Japan, Australia and many other member countries of the Board of Governors are expected to support South Korea's position.

Hans Blix, director-general of the IAEA, will officially recommend to North Korea that it stop the construction of nuclear reprocessing facilities and carry out simultaneous inspections with the South.

Meanwhile, Chong Kun-mo, South Korean ambassador for nuclear energy cooperation, appealed to North Korea to sign the emergency assistance agreement under which officials from the IAEA and neighboring countries could provide emergency technical assistance in case of a nuclear accident.

Despite repeated invitations from the IAEA, North Korea is said to be trying to avoid signing the agreement as it did with the signing of a nuclear safeguards agreement.

North Korea is also ignoring the IAEA's practice of sending its Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) to member countries to check the safety of nuclear facilities.

As a result, the Board of Governors discussed the possibility of proposing an overall treaty that would compel member countries to accept safety checks.

USFK Korean Employees To Protest Reductions

SK1806133592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1239 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—Amid the anticipated mass reduction of Korean employees, the USFK (U.S. Forces in Korea) Korean Employees Union Thursday decided to stage hard-line actions like hunger strike if no measures were forthcoming to ensure the livelihood of those subject to reduction.

The union headed by Kang In-sik, age 52, held a central committee meeting at its office in Yongsan-ku Thursday afternoon, where it was decided to hold a hunger strike in front of the Eighth U.S. Army Headquarters in Seoul for three days beginning June 24.

The strike is to be attended by some 470 leading members of the union.

The meeting also decided that if the 171st Korea-U.S. joint committee meeting, designed to discuss livelihood measures for reduction-bound Korean employees, failed to work out any concrete steps, they would stage a time-limit strike from June 29 through July 3.

"Since Korean employees get their severance payment settled on a yearly basis since 1979, it is difficult for employees to devise any means of livelihood at the time of their departure," Chairman Kang said.

Presently about 19,000 Korean workers are employed at the U.S. Forces in Korea, of whom some 2,500 are likely to be laid off this year.

The union demands that the U.S. military authorities revive the progressive severance payment system and take measures to ensure the livelihood of reduction-bound employees.

However, the Eighth U.S. Army authorities are in the position that such measures should be taken by the Korean Government.

U.S. Businessmen Remarks Termed 'Interventionist'

SK1806021392 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 17 Jun 92 p 5

[Article by reporter O Tae-yong from the "Reporter's Diary" column: "An Interventionist ROK-U.S. Business Conference"]

[Text] The primary goal of the participants of the fifth ROK-U.S. business conference held in Seoul on 15-16 June was for influential businessmen of the two countries to discuss ways to promote cooperation between them. While our side focused on purely economic issues such as joint ROK-U.S. business ventures into third countries, the U.S. businessmen persistently talked about issues that must be discussed at a government level, such as the need for the Korean Government to open and expand the scope of the financial market and to bolster the protection of intellectual

property rights. In this way, the U.S. businessmen created the impression that they were spokespersons for the U.S. Administration.

Of course, Korean businessmen were sympathetic to the U.S. businessmen's complaint that "since the Korean financial market is not completely open and even the intellectual property rights are not adequately protected in Korea that we, the U.S. businessmen, find it difficult to invest in Korea or transfer technology, even if we wanted to."

Nevertheless, the U.S. businessmen apparently went too far when they asked an interventionist question: "When will the Bank of Korea enjoy its independence?"

Morever, Donald Gregg, U.S. ambassador to Korea who should know more than anybody else the state of ROK-U.S. relations, left an embarrassing impression by stating unabashedly in a speech delivered at the ROK-U.S. business conference that "Korea has moved far in political democratization, but has not moved very far in economic democratization" and that "the incumbent government, which has only eight months to go before leaving office, can hardly be expected to ease its economic control and expand the scope of market opening, but the next government should realize them without fail." Such words are hardly appropriate for a diplomat. Given that now is an age of internationalization, market opening is probably an inevitable course. However, countries can have their different reasons for deciding when to open markets and how to do it. This is the reason why the Uruguay Round negotiations have repeatedly hit snags. The United States, while calling on other countries to open up their markets, insists on keeping waiver clauses for U.S. domestic textile and service industries in defiance of demands from other countries that these sectors be included in multilateral negotiations. In particular, interest rates and foreign exchange rates are the core elements of each country's economy and should be decided by the governments of each country. One has no right to say this and that about other nations' policies.

Our government, taking into consideration our country's comprehensive economic conditions represented by international trends, prices, and balance of international payments, worked out last August "a basic 4-phase plan for liberalizing the interest rate" and "a medium- and long-term plan for liberalizing and opening up the financial market" at the beginning of this year, making it clear that the Korean Government will expand the scope of the three-phase financial market opening until 1997. It has already put the first phase into practice. Two sets of reports recently published in the United States have even excluded Korea from the list of countries that manipulate exchange rates.

While observing the just-ended ROK-U.S. business conference, this reporter thought that the United States was not only impatient, but also did not try to understand the opposing side. I may not be the only one who had this impression of the United States.

Seoul, Tokyo To Negotiate Trade 'Action Plan'

SK1806093892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold working-level talks on an "action plan" for balancing bilateral trade in Tokyo on Friday and Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The two countries will mostly focus on establishment of a foundation on trade, science and technological cooperation, according to the officials.

Seoul originally proposed a 200 million-U.S.-dollar foundation with Tokyo meeting three-fourths of the costs, but was politely told there was no precedent for such foundation funded by the government.

The two agreed on a smaller foundation, with operating costs tentatively set at 1 billion Japanese yen, the officials said.

Korean President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed during their summit in January to draw up an action plan to rectify the skewed trade in Tokyo's favor.

Korea suffered a nearly 9 billion-dollar trade deficit with Japan last year, accounting for most of its 9.6 billion-dollar shortfall.

The fourth trade, industry and technology cooperation committee meeting opens in Seoul June 26, and the Tokyo talks will try to finalize the action plan for formal adoption then, the ministry officials said.

Chinese Goods 'Flooding' ROK, Foreign Markets

SK1706011192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 p 1

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] China has emerged as a strong trading power outshining Korea. Korean products have been rapidly driven out by cheap Chinese goods in major markets including the United States as well as in domestic supermarkets.

Reflecting this, Korea recorded trade deficits with China for the third consecutive year since 1989. Last year alone, Korea chalked up a $1,070 million deficit.

This year, China is not expected to loosen its reins on its export drive with the sale of a variety of cheaper products to Korea, which is its fifth largest trading partner.

Some 160 Chinese manufacturers displayed about 5,000 items at a week-long exhibition at the Korea Exhibition Center late last month. The items covered a wide range

of products from raw materials and labor-intensive products, to machinery and electronics goods.

In particular, 90 percent of the displayed products are raw and half-finished materials which are major import items in Korea.

Jeeps, heavy construction equipment, computers and other technology-intensive items were also included in the list of the exhibition, the second of its kind in Korea.

An official of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [KOTRA] said Chinese makers will become strong rivals to Koreans in third markets and make inroads into domestic markets greatly.

The KOTRA has forecast that imports of Chinese goods will rise 55 percent to $5.4 billion this year and Korea's trade deficit with the neighboring country will further widen.

During the first three months of this year, the trade deficit was $170 million.

In particular, farm products are the main items widening the trade deficit with China. According to the Korea Foreign Trade Association [KFTA], imports of farm products increased 2.4 fold last year over 1990.

Imports of farm products snowballed to $1,007 million last year from $572 million in 1990 and $533 million in 1989.

Feed grain imports jumped 100.3 percent to $486 million, accounting for 48.2 percent. Raw materials for textiles and fur skins grew 22.6 percent to $228 million. Food imports were $134 million and other farm products $161 million.

In particular, imports of grain for animal feed and raw cotton marked $380 million and $94 million, respectively. The combined value of the two items shared 46.9 percent of total farm imports last year.

The KFTA analyzed that cheap prices have pushed the flooding imports of Chinese farm products in recent years.

The advantages of geographical contiguousness were cited as another factor behind the massive imports of Chinese farm products. Korea's major import source of the two items was formerly the United States.

Construction materials, including cement, steel products, tiles and bricks were also massively imported due to booming housing construction.

Other cheap consumer goods such as medicinal herbs, kitchenware, toothpicks, bamboo products, fans and cotton gloves also flooded the domestic market riding a spending spree although exact figures are not available.

But an official of the Trade-Industry Ministry said that the trade deficit will decline in the months to come as China is growing importing semi-finished Korean products for reexport after processing.

The Korea's austerity campaign cooled off imports of cheap consumer goods, and slowing construction has led to declining imports of construction materials.

He said Korea registered a $16 million trade surplus in March, the first since March, 1990.

The official predicted that exports to China would grow 90 percent to $4.5 billion this year.

The agreement on abolition of discriminatory duties on Korean products signed on Dec. 30 last year will prop up the exports to Korea's fourth largest trading partner.

The official said the agreement effective of Feb. 1 will alleviate some 30 percent of tariffs to Korean traders exporting their goods to China.

Chinese foreign exchange reserves amounting to $40 billion created from huge trade surpluses in the past two years is another factor increasing imports of Korean products.

Uzbekistan Seeks Investments in Cotton, Textiles

SK1806094292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0903 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—Uzbekistan is looking forward to more joint ventures with South Korean businesses in various fields, including the cotton and textile industries, a senior Uzbek official said Thursday.

Joint ventures between Korea and Uzbekistan were possible in the fields of cotton processing and textile production in the first phase and later in oil exploration, Victor Tchjen, the local industry minister, told a news conference. He is visiting Seoul with Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

"South Korea's Daewoo and Samsung business groups are likely to make the first joint ventures in Uzbekistan in the fields of cotton processing and production of television sets and radios," Tchjen said, adding that he would discuss the matters with officials of the two companies while here.

Though boasting of abundant natural resources, his country still lacks modern production facilities and thus wants more Korean investment, he said.

"The Uzbek Government will make every effort possible to help Korean companies make investments in Uzbekistan in the near future by providing them up-to-date information and certain privileges," he said, noting that some 250 joint ventures are under discussion with European and Chinese companies.

Asked about the status of the 200,000-strong Korean ethnic minority in Uzbekistan, Tchjen, whose father is Korean, said they were not discriminated against and were mostly farmers.

"But around 37 percent of the Koreans are well educated and hold important positions in various circles, including the government," he said.

Tchjen was born in Uzbekistan in 1945 to a Korean man and a Russian woman. He graduated from Samarkand University in 1968.

After graduation, he had worked in various factories for 25 years until he was named minister two years ago.

Government To Build 18 New Nuclear Power Plants

SK1706075592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea will extend the supply of liquefied natural gas [LNG] nationwide and build 18 nuclear power stations by the year 2006, Energy-Resources Minister Chin Nyom said Wednesday.

"The government will effectively deal with the international move to restrict the use of fossil fuels by supplying LNG nationwide and building 18 nuclear power plants from 1995 to 2006," Chin told a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Korea Industrial Standards Association.

He said the government would expand combined heat-power generation facilities, utilizing heat from garbage, and strengthen efforts to develop substitute energy sources.

"Industrial firms should work out steps to enhance energy efficiency and to reduce energy consumption," Chin said.

Korea now has nine nuclear power stations.

Burma

Political Detainees Released From Insein Jail

BK1106150892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Fifteen men, against whom action was taken in accordance with the existing laws and who were serving their sentences, were released from Insein Central Jail today in accordance with the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] Declaration No. 11/92.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of the Defense Services Intelligence visited the Insein Central Jail this afternoon and met with those who were to be released and read out to them SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92 issued on 24 April and the order of the home minister regarding the reduction of jail terms imposed.

Those to be released were then permitted to meet with their families and were later released.

Opposition: 23 Jun National Conventional 'Farce'

BK1806074992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A6

[By Yindi Loetcharoehchok]

[Text] The Burmese junta, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), officially announced in its order No. 9192 dated May 28 stating it will hold a "Coordination Meeting for the Convening of the National Convention" on June 23.

The forum will start at 8 am at the meeting hall of the President Residence on Ahlone Road.

SLORC ordered seven political parties to send their elected representatives to attend the meeting along with a number of independent elected MPs. It also established a Steering Committee to invite the nominated delegates to the forum. The National League for Democracy (NLD) of detained popular leader Aung San Suu Kyi which garnered the most number of seats in last year's general election, is to send 15 of its elected MPs, while the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, and the National Unity Party will be represented by six and three delegates respectively.

Four other smaller political parties—Union Paoh National Organization, Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, and Lahu National Development Party—are to send one of their MPs to participate in the convention which is to draft a new national constitution.

The mentioned parties had to nominate the list of their representatives and send it to the Steering Committee by June 12.

According to the SLORC, the Steering Committee will determine the programmes relating to the holding of the Coordination Meeting, set up topics and procedures for the meeting, determine "as may be necessary the daily allowance and travelling allowance" for the MPs, and to submit a report of the meeting to the SLORC within one month.

Fifteen military personnel or "military backers" headed by Maj Gen Myo Nyunt, who is commander of Rangoon Command and a SLORC member, were appointed members of the Committee.

The National League for Democracy has already nominated its 15 representatives. They are U Aung Shwe, a former brigadier-general who is currently acting NLD president and served once as ambassador to Australia; U Lwin, a colonel who served once as foreign minister in the Ne Win government; U Thein Tun; U Saw Aung; U Nyunt Way; Duwa Zaw Aung (Kachin); U Kyaw Tun (Chin); U Khaing Tin Kyi (Shan); U Zaw Way (Karenni); U Lun Tin; U Tun Yi (Arakanese); Nan Kyin Htwe Min (Karen); U Nyunt Sein; U Hla Min; and U Hla Pe. Among them, Nan Kyin Htwe Min is believed to remain the staunchest against the SLORC, while one of the 15 delegates happens to be a brother of U Aung Khin Tint, a member of the Steering Committee.

The National Unity Party, a transformation of the authoritarian Burma Socialist Programme Party, which has ruled Burma single-handedly for nearly three decades, already designated U Thet Way, a retired colonel; U Maung Ohn, a former director of Defence Industry; and U Aung Thein, an ex-colonel to represent the Party to the meeting.

Burmese Opposition groups have widely rejected the announced national convention as a "farce" and "ploy" by the SLORC to continue to cling on to power. They criticized the SLORC as "illegitimate" and has no legal and popular authority to hold the convention.

U Hla Pe, information minister of the parallel Burmese government operating from Manerplaw on the Thai-Burmese border, lashed out at the SLORC's decision to invite only 15 out of 392 NLD MPs to participate in the convention as a strategy to influence the gathering.

He said the number of MPs constitutes less than four per cent of the total number as against the 30 per cent (three out of 10 elected legislators) of the pro-military National Unity Party called to attend the meeting.

Hla Pe said the SLORC had "no right whatsoever to call the national convention. It is the duty of the MPs," he said.

"A genuine national convention which is the foundation for a stable and unified future Federation, can be held only under the auspicies of an elected parliament or a truly democratic government," said the parallel government in a recent press release.

"As the SLORC is a military clique which has seized state power by force of arms and has been perpetrating acts of oppression, violations of human rights and disrespect for the will of the people, it has neither the mandate nor the competence to hold a national convention," said the release.

An informed diplomatic source in Rangoon said it was widely conceived that SLORC plans to invite one delegate from each of the 135 national ethnic races to attend in the national convention which is expected to be held either in the last week of November or in the first week of December.

The source said it is highly likely that the new Constitution "will be almost like the 1974 Constitution" which was formulated and drawn up by the Ne Win govemment. It will be "almost a rigid unitary" system with power in the hands of a small group of rulers like the previous Burmese military govemment, added the source.

Kachins Say SLORC Actions 'Positive Signs'

BK1806081392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A6

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Anti-Rangoon Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) welcomed unexpected moves made in April by the Burmese junta as "positive signs and first steps towards ... national reconciliation and national unity."

It also hopes the process will finally lead to "peace, freedom and prosperity of the country."

The KIO stance, though in line with some Western democracies, differs from its allies in other ethnic minorities and certain opposition leaders who denounced the junta's moves as mere "sham" or "farce" to prolong the junta's rigid dictatorial rule.

In April, the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] surprised the Burmese people and the world hy replacing its top leaders and announcing its plan to meet with elected legislators and subsequently to call a national convention to draft a constitution.

It also started to release from the prisons, in small numbers at a time, political prisoners whom it considered no longer a threat to state security, though Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be held under house arrest.

However, Suu Kyi, whose detention term is approaching three years in July, was permitted visits by her British husband Michael Aris and their two sons. Aris is an expert on Tibet and a visiting professor at Harvard University.

"We (KIO) welcome these events as positive signs and first steps taken towards bringing about national reconciliation and national unity and we are hopeful that the process will be successfully carried out to its final conclusion resulting in the much-longed-for peace, freedom and prosperity of the country," said the Kachin group in its May 27 statement.

"The recent actions taken by SLORC are seen as positive changes in the right direction," said KIO Chairman Brang Seng in a separate statement.

KIO urged the SLORC to "de-emphasize the role of the armed forces" and to take further steps towards resolving Burma's political conflicts including the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of war, and the implementation of a nationwide ceasefire.

It also called for a "pre-national convention meeting" between all elected MPs, leaders of armed ethnic groups, and domestic and overseas opposition groups as a prelude to a "fully representative national convention" to draft a new constitution.

Brang Seng said Burmese history has shown time and again that the armed forces alone cannot rule and secure a lasting peace in the country without the national unity.

"In the world, some nations believe that a strong army is needed to establish order to maintain state sovereignty. However, it seems that whenever strong armies are formed, there will be a lack of national unity, and sovereignty cannot be maintained," he says.

He cited the period in post-World War II, saying that some nations with "insignificant (sizes of) armies" finally succeeded because of "national solidarity and national unity", in gaining independence and national sovereignty from former colonial rulers who were "much more powerful" militarily.

He also called for the greater participation of representatives of all national Burmese groups both inside and outside the country to draft the new constitution.

"Thus, I would like to recommend that in order to gain the greatest representation from the peoples of Burma in writing a new national constitution that is based on national unity rather than on armed strength, representatives from pro-democratic opposition groups from both inside and outside the country, representatives of the political parties, and representatives of the armed revolutionary groups, should be invited to participate in the planned upcoming national convention."

Construction Minister Meets Sri Lankan Minister

BK1806093092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Ananda Kularatne, visiting minister of state for highways from Sri Lanka, accompanied by Mr. S. Wijesinghe Alawathuwala, Sri Lanka ambassador to Myanmar [Burma], called on U Khin Maung Yin, minister of construction, at 1300 today at the Office of the Construction Minister at the Office of the Cabinet and held cordial discussions on matters of bilateral interests.

Responsible officials from the Department of Public Construction and Urban and Housing Development were also present at the meeting.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Japan's UN Overseas Peacekeeping Role Viewed

BK1806083192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0707 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 18 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia said Thursday it has no objection to Japanese troops serving in United Nations' peacekeeping missions abroad, but wants Japan to keep strictly to that role.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was about time that Japan, being an economic power, played a role in the peacekeeping process and not wait for opportunities in any national reconstruction after peace had been restored.

"Keeping peace has its own costs, risks and hazards, and Japan must be able to take all these," he said when commenting on the Tokyo Parliament's final approval of a bill Monday which will allow Japan to take its troops beyond its shores for peacekeeping missions.

Kuala Lumpur welcomed Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping operations but Japan should not emerge as a military power, he said in reply to reporters' questions here.

"We are concerned about this and we have told them clearly to restrict (their role) only for peacekeeping because memories of the Second World War are very fresh in our minds," he said.

He said he did not believe Japan should resort to "military adventures that would result in losses for it especially after the country had been able to overcome the ruins of war to become an economic power.

"Japan is surely aware of the views of friends all over the world that it restrict (itself) only to peacekeeping role and nothing more than that," he said.

Countries reacting cautiously to the controversial United Nations Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) bill fear that by allowing Japan's modern-day defence forces to go overseas, even under the UN flag, would lead it to follow in the bloody footsteps of the wartime Imperial Army that overran a number of Asian countries.

To another question, Abdullah said the Khmer Rouge should stop resisting the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as it was a signatory to the peace agreement.

According to reports, the Khmer Rouge had over the past week refused to comply with the UN peace plan by not grouping its troops in cantonments and disarming themselves along with the Phnom Penh Government and two other rebel factions.

On the call by UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi that governments match their words with deeds in contributing to rebuild the war-ravaged country, Abdullah said it was a matter of concern as UNTAC's role could be affected due to the lack of funds.

Abdullah said countries that had made the pledges were aware of the large amount of money needed for the peace process and reconstruction in Cambodia.

Akashi had urged governments to give generously at a crucial aid conference scheduled for Saturday and Monday in Tokyo, aimed at raising about U.S.$600 million to rebuild Cambodia.

Delegates from 32 countries and 12 international organisations are expected to attend the conference which comes at a historic time for Japan which wants to use Cambodia as the theatre for its most important overseas diplomatic and military initiatives since 1945.

Mahathir on Importance of Japanese Investment

BK1806052692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0345 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 1 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Japanese investments in Malaysia has provided a cornerstone to bind the bonds of friendship between the two countries, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said.

There was no doubt that the investments had been a great success for the Japanese investors in terms of returns in investments and their ability to penetrate the regional and global markets, he said.

"Not only that you have expanded your operations in order to meet expanding demand overseas but for more than two decades, your investments in Malaysia have reached maturity," he said.

He enlightened them, however, that such a situation would not have been possible without the political stability and business environment that were conducive for their investments.

Dr. Mahathir made the remarks in a message to members of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (Majeca) and Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (Jameca) on the occasion of their two-day 15th joint annual conference in Genting Highlands near here beginning Wednesday.

The prime minister thanked the Japanese Government for its agreement and understanding in extending Japan's GSP [Generalized System of Preferences] scheme for another 20 years from January 1992 until March 2001 [dates as received].

Dr. Mahathir hoped Japanese businessmen would help promote the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC)—the Malaysian initiative that has became an ASEAN proposal—for an open and free global trading system.

He also commended Jameca for its positive role in the implementation of the Look East policy.

Noting that the theme for the conference was "Visit Malaysia Year 1994", Dr. Mahathir said it was an excellent idea for the host to choose "tourism" as Japan was a large tourist generating country.

He gave two reasons for the government giving priority attention to tourism—the need to sustain the record performances of the sector during the Visit Malaysia Year [figure indistinct] and to check the increasing deficits in the services sector.

"Since the mid-1980s, measures were introduced to refuse the deficit including cutting back imports of items such as freight, capital, education, leisure travel, and contract and professional services and exporting services items like tourism and passenger fares and other services related to shipping," he said.

Despite sustained economic growth, the services sector recorded persistent deficits and remained a major problem, he said.

Prospects are for a worsening of the deficit. These deficits have eroded the surpluses in the trade account.

"Traditionally, we were not so worried as the surpluses in the merchandise account have always been large enough to finance the growing services deficit.

"However, in recent years, and probably in the longer term, this may not happen," he said, adding that he was therefore pleased that the conference organisers had decided to focus on issues related directly to the problem.

Meeting Held With Japanese Business Executives

OW1706152392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 17 KYODO—Japanese and Malaysian business executives began an annual meeting Wednesday to discuss problems affecting their economic ties, especially sharply declining Japanese investment.

The decline, resulting from Japan's stagnant economy and increasingly unfavorable investment conditions in Malaysia, concerns officials in Malaysia, whose strong economy has been propped up largely through Japanese investments.

Taiwan overtook Japan in 1990 as the biggest foreign investor in Malaysia. In 1991, Japanese investment fell 35 percent from the previous year to 422 million dollars.

Masami Ishii, chairman of the Japan-Malaysia Economic Association, attributed the decline to last year's collapse of Japan's speculative "bubble economy"—which inflated land and stock prices—and infrastructure and labor problems in Malaysia.

Japanese investment in Malaysia has peaked and gone into a "selective stage," Ishii said at the opening of the 15th annual meeting of the joint Malaysian and Japanese economic associations.

The two-day meeting will study proposals, including government policy changes, made in a report by Japanese companies in Malaysia on how to overcome hindrances to new investment.

"I hope amendments will be given to investment policies based on the proposals and that the influx of investment from Japan will be continued in the future," Ishii said.

Unless such changes are made, Ishii warned, Malaysia will face increasing competition from neighboring countries, particularly the opening of Indochinese markets, for outside investment.

The report cites problems such as a shortage of skilled labor, soaring labor costs, infrastructure problems, curbs on expatriate staff, low quality supporting industries for the manufacturing sector, and foreign equity restrictions.

A Taiwanese minister provoked Malaysian criticism last month when he urged Taiwanese businessmen not to invest here because of such problems.

Mohar Badiozaman, president of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association, expressed concern over a shift in Japanese investment from manufacturing to the service sector, including shipping and insurance.

Apart from worsening Malaysia's already huge deficit in the service sector, the added competition may spark local resentment because Japanese companies tend to patronize one another, he said.

About 100 business people from both countries are attending the conference, which will also discuss technology transfers, tourism, finance, and enhancing human resource development.

'New Pattern' of Economic Ties in Asia Urged

BK1706090892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] A new pattern of economic relationships and linkages needs to be fostered for East Asia to ensure the region's continued prosperity, Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He added that it was imperative the countries work beyond their national boundaries in meeting new challenges in the future.

"We cannot act alone in the face of the world which is increasingly being dragged into blocs and groupings. Individual East Asian countries are situated more or less at the periphery of the global economic and political system while the major industrial economies occupy the dominant centre.

"This situation is no longer tenable," he told delegates in his keynote address at the opening of the conference entitled "Johor 2005: The Technopolis of Malaysia."

The conference is organised by the Johor Government, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

He added that the withdrawal of the industrial countries behind protectionist walls meant that "we must act to secure our legitimate interests."

"Where else do we look for partnership but among our immediate neighbours?" Anwar asked, maintaining that this was a matter of common and economic sense.

He added that East Asia has attained a state of economic maturity, where the differentiation, diversity, and sophistication of activities exist, to make the proposition an attractive and viable one.

In the effort to define and work towards the proposed new pattern, Anwar said that there was a need for fresh views on three significant developments.

First, East Asia is rising as an economic power as proven by its share of the world merchandise trade in 1991.

In that year, East Asian economies accounted for 25 percent of the world trade, up from a mere 10 percent three decades ago. This being the case, East Asia is going to be the largest economic region by the end of the decade with a combined gross domestic product of U.S. $15,000 billion (about $7,950 billion).

Second, Anwar said countries in the region must go for greater regional self reliance because they have no other choice in view of increasing protectionistic trends in industrialised countries.

"Some countries deem it a threat to their prosperity if we were allowed freer access to their domestic markets," Anwar said.

His third point related to current measures to save the Earth. He said the actions to be taken to ensure greater economic prosperity must be guided not merely by the pursuit of wealth and profits but also by the sense of justice, fairness, and commitment to ethical values.

Anwar said Malaysia believes in free markets and free enterprises and "we in Malaysia also believe that judicious intervention is necessary to ensure fair play and prevent the manipulation of the market.

"At the same time, we will continue to pursue our policy of affirmative action as even though wealth may trickle down, the pace may be too slow and the distribution uneven, "he said.

In conclusion, Anwar said: "We will progress together with our neighbours. We must rise above pettiness in our dealings with them. Difficulties, real or perceived, if encountered in our dealings, viewed in the light of our overriding regional objectives, are but minor irritants. "They should not be allowed to surface and be blown out of proportion. We have come a long way from the paranoia and mutual suspicion of the past," he added.

Minister Describes Rio Summit as 'Success'

BK1706083292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi has described the recent earth summit in Brazil as a success as it got together many world leaders to discuss environmental issues. He said what brought the 150 heads of state or government to the summit was a common awareness of the importance of discussing environmental issues together.

He was speaking at a joint news conference with Science, Technology, and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on their return from the summit in Rio de Janeiro. Datuk Abdullah said Malaysia had gained much from the summit as many provisions of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration were incorporated in the Rio Declaration. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration was the outcome of the second ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development last April in preparation for the earth summit in Rio. In Rio, developing countries were also successful in rejecting the idea for a convention on forests.

Datuk Abdullah commended the good work of Malaysian officials representing the various ministries at the summit. The team spirit was a boon to the country. Representatives from Malaysian nongovernmental organizations at the summit also helped in explaining the state of the environment in the country. Minister Law said Maurice Strong, the earth summit secretary general, had told him that the prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir's presence in Rio was of great importance. The Malaysian leader chaired one session of summit talks and Law himself chaired the ministerial level [word indistinct] session. This reflected Malaysia's high international standing.

Singapore

Japan's Military, Political Role Detailed

BK1806071092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0617 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Singapore, June 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—East Asian countries will find it hard to accept a militarily powerful Japan but they can more readily accept a politically influential Japan within the framework of the United Nations.

"In this regard, whether Japan can become a permanent member of the Security Council will depend a geat deal on Japan being accepted as a trusted member of a larger East Asian community", Information and Arts Minister Brigadier General George Yeo said Thursday.

Speaking at the JIJI PRESS top seminar here, Yeo said Japan had to practice a softer form of nationalism to help bring that about.

He said for the next 10 to 20 years at the least Japan would continue to grow stronger in economic terms.

"While it is right that Japan should re-arm, it is also necessary for Japan's legitimate security interests to be safeguarded," he said, adding that no one knew for how long America could continue to povide the security umbrella for Japan.

Touching on East Asia and America, Yeo said it should not be an East Asian community which kept out America.

"America is a country which contains within it all the contradictions of the world, not just the doubt of Europe but also the despair of Africa, the uncertainties of Latin America, and the hopes of Asia," he added.

It was in the interest of East Asia to help East Asians living in America succeed, not only to help themselves but also to help uplift American society as a whole.

The recent riots in Los Angeles and other American cities showed how sharp the contradictions were in America and how East Asians could become the target of the mob for no other reason than the fact of their economic success.

"If this great experiment in cultural integration fails in America, we all fail and the world will be a much poorer place. That is why we in East Asia have a large stake in the success of America and why we must try to bring the two sides of the Pacific closer together even as we forge closer links among ourselves," he said.

Arrest of Malaysian Fishermen Clarified

BK1706133092 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 p 19

[Text] The Government has denied a claim by a Johor fishermen's association that four Malaysian fishermen were detained by Singapore Marine Police while fishing in the Straits of Johor.

A Home Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the allegation made by Mr Ahmad Talib, chairman of the South Johor Fishermen Association, was "misleading" because it gave the impression that the men were detained for fishing in Singapore waters.

She said police records showed that the four fishermen were arrested because they had contravened the Immigration Act by landing at fish farms here in November last year, and not for fishing in Singapore waters.

In January, the Malaysian news agency BERNAMA reported Mr Ahmad's claim that Singapore authorities had detained four Malaysians while they were fishing in the Straits of Johor.

Mr Ahmad maintained that one of the four was held in a lock-up for two nights before his family paid a fine of $100 to secure his release.

He said the other three were detained in Malaysian waters but forced to land in Singapore and then accused of illegal entry.

Mr Ahmad's allegations were repeated in a subsequent BERNAMA report on June 9.

Giving details of the November incidents, the ministry's spokesman said that one Malaysian fisherman was arrested when he landed his sampan at a Singapore fish farm at 10 am on Nov 1 last year.

By doing so, the fisherman contravened the Immigration Act which prohibits entry into Singapore except at authorised landing points. He was referred to the Immigration Department at 2.35 pm on the same day and fined $100.

"He paid the fine and was released on the same day. The allegation that the subject was kept in a lock-up for two nights is untrue," she said.

She added that the other three Malaysians were arrested for the same offence when they landed at another Singapore fish farm at 1 pm on Nov 9.

The three men were referred to the Immigration Department at around 7.30 pm, warned and released that very day.

"Singapore Marine Police have thus far not arrested Malaysian fishermen for fishing in our waters," she said.

"However, should any fisherman, regardless of nationality, be found fishing in areas where live firing exercises are being conducted, they would be told to leave the area in the interests of their own safety."

Trade Delegation Leaves for Cambodia 17 Jun

BK1706110292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 p 36

[Text] The Trade Development Board [TDB] starts its first official mission to Cambodia today.

Its chairman, Mr Alan Yeo, who is chairman of Yeo Hiap Seng, will head the 26-member mission during its five-day stay there. Members plan to identify business opportunities in the hotel, tourism, oil and gas industries in Phnom Penh, added TDB.

Mission members will also call on the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the UN Transitional Authority for Cambodia Procurement Office.

Singapore is Cambodia's top trading partner last year, with bilateral trade between both countries exceeding $500 million.

Yesterday, TDB also said it will hold two seminars on business opportunities in Indochina, in response to growing interest in these markets among Singapore businessmen.

The first seminar, a full-day event to be held on June 26 at the World Trade Centre Convention Hall 2, is on construction and real estate opportunities in Vietnam. It will see the participation of Mr Nguyen Manh Kiem, Vietnam's First Vice Minister of Construction.

The minister and his delegation will be here to give contractors and real estate developers first-hand information on opportunities in Vietnam.

A wide range of topics, including investment opportunities in the country's infrastructure and construction sectors, will be covered during the seminar.

The Vietnamese delegation will also discuss the roles of the Ministry of Construction and other state-owned enterprises in facilitating foreign investments and the construction process in Vietnam.

The second seminar, on Cambodia and Laos, to be held here on July 2 and 3, will see the presence of ministers and senior government officials from the two countries. They will brief local businessmen on their countries' latest economic developments and the impact of doing business there.

They will also give first-hand information on the business opportunities in their countries.

Cambodia

KR Bands Show 'Interest' in Cantonment Process

BK1806052892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0528 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, June 18 (AFP)—Battles in central Cambodia have subsided after the Phnom Penh government retook large areas of control from their Khmer Rouge [KR] rivals in a weekend offensive, U.N. officals and diplomats said Thursday.

The military commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces, General John Sanderson traveled to central Kompong Thom province Wednesday for a meeting between generals from the civil war's four factions.

"The main aim of his visit was to reopen Route 12" from Kompong Thom city north to Preah Vihear and Thailand, said U.N. spokesman Eric Falt.

Sanderson proposed that a joint KR and Phnom Penh army group begin demining the critical road, which has been fought over by both sides since January and was recaptured by Phnom Penh during the offensive.

It has been heavily mined during the battles.

The KR representative had told the United Nations that he would not attend the meeting, but a liaison officer showed up at the last moment, Falt said.

Sanderson reported that the KR officer was positive about the idea and would report to his superiors, the spokesman said.

In addition, the United Nations reported that several KR armed groups are expressing interest in joining the U.N. cantonment process—in which the Marxist faction as a whole has refused to take part. But they are awaiting permission from their superiors, he said.

"That's an important fact," Falt said.

"We are keeping the offer open to (the KR) to join the peace agreement and they can come back at any time," he said.

The interest was coming from the northeast, in provinces bordering Vietnam, he said.

So far, 5,000 Cambodian troops from the other three factions have placed themselves under U.N. supervision, 4,324 of them from the Phnom Penh government.

Poised To Attack Cantonment Areas

BK1706104792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Summary] According to the cooperation committee on military affairs, the Khmer Rouge have assembled troops to attack cantonment areas of the State of Cambodia's Army at Cheung Prey District, and (?Sithor Center) east of Boeng Thom at the border of the three districts of Kang Meas, Kompong Siem, and Prey Chhor in Kompong Cham Province.

On 8 June, Khmer Rouge troops from Divisions 785 and 417 commanded by (Peng Sim) and (Laong) gathered between 150 and 200 soldiers west of Boeng Thmei in Kang Meas District, Kompong Cham Province. The same military source also said that in Ponhea Krek District of the same province, on 6 June, between 45 and 50 armed Khmer Rouge soldiers infiltrated about five km into the area northeast of (Me Mae) under the command of (Chan). They threatened local people not to venture out of the area.

In Prey Chhor District on 6 June, Khmer Rouge troops from Division (?785) retreated from the area. After this, six of the soldiers fired two B-40.5 rockets on the Lvea commune office and the police post. In Batheay District, also in Kompong Cham Province, on 7 June, 30 Khmer Rouge troops from Division 785 infiltrated into three communes and caused havoc for 15 minutes before retreating.

In Preah Vihear Province on 9 June, Khmer Rouge troops from Division 616 fired seven H-107 rockets on Rumchek. On 10 June, they fired another seven rockets on the same locality. They are currently gathering at Svay Damnak Commune in Rovieng District with the aim of attacking Nor 16.

KPNLF Reiterates Call for SRV Troop Pullout

BK1806093392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Political commentary: "13 June 1992 and the Second Phase of the Cease-fire" from the "Bulletin of the Khmer People's Liberation Front"]

[Text] This is another historic day of our nation because it is the day that the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] puts the second phase of the cease-fire into effect. If this second phase is implemented strictly by all parties, the implementation of the peace agreement on Cambodia can be carried out effectively. By now, the Khmer Rouge faction is the only one among all the Cambodian factions which has announced that it would not abide by the second phase of the cease-fire. If this is so, how will the situation develop and can peace return to our sorrowful Cambodia?

According to the UN plan, the second phase of the cease-fire directs all Cambodian factions to regroup their armed forces in cantonments controlled by the UNTAC so that it can disarm and dissolve at least 70 percent of all Cambodian armed forces. As a rule, after signing the peace agreement on 23 October 1991, all Cambodian factions must give the UNTAC the power to take measures to implement this agreement. In this connection, all factions must abide by the plans decided upon by the UNTAC after its discussions with Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC].

In this case, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] has declared its willingness to follow the UNTAC plans. But the KPNLF still persists in demanding that the UNTAC take measures to settle the problem of the Vietnamese nationals' presence in Cambodia. In this connection, the Vietnamese Government, supported by the State of Cambodia's faction, has repeatedly announced that it had withdrawn all troops from Cambodia since September 1989.

This is just a unilateral announcement made without the backing of any supervision by the UNTAC. It is true that since then, the Vietnamese did not openly deploy their troops as before. But the presence of a large number of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia cannot conceal clandestine military activities or acts of terrorism in Cambodia.

According to successively received reports, many Vietnamese nationals were formerly soldiers who used to carry out military operations against the national liberation forces. Some of those Vietnamese troops were really sent back to Vietnam, but a large number of them returned to Cambodia as civilians working as laborers, construction technicians, and various other specialists. But some others did not return home. They are still in Cambodia changing their clothes into Heng Samrin soldiers' uniforms or disguising themselves as civilians.

Therefore, the question of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia is one involving supervision of the presence of Vietnamese nationals in general who are currently living in Cambodia.

As the owners of Cambodia, we will not allow foreigners to continue trampling upon our Cambodian sovereignty. The stance of the KPNLF is just a little different from that of the Khmer Rouge on the point that the KPNLF agrees to follow the UNTAC plan, but the Khmer Rouge demand that the question of supervision of the presence of Vietnamese troops be settled first. The Khmer Rouge's stand has created an obstacle for the UNTAC, and has served as a pretext for the other factions to breach the agreement.

If no one respects the agreement, the war will continue; and if this occurs, the victims will be no one else but our innocent people. For this reason, the KPNLF solemnly appealed at the SNC meetings on 5 and 10 June 1992, calling on all Cambodian factions to closely cooperate with the UNTAC to effectively implement the agreement. This is because, without the agreement we signed, there will be no UNTAC; without the UNTAC, the agreement will not be implemented; without the implementation of the agreement; there will be no cease-fire; without the cease-fire, there will be no peace; without peace, there will be no election; without the election, the illegitimate state authority will continue to exist and thus the Vietnamese nationals will be able to continue living happily in Cambodia.

For this reason, the presence of the UNTAC in Cambodia constitutes a great hope of the entire Cambodian nation.

Therefore, we must closely cooperate with this international organization so that our Cambodians can exist peacefully with honor and national independence. Thus, the second phase is the most important step in the peace process. At the same time, we will continue to demand that Vietnam withdraw all its clandestine or disguised forces from our Cambodian territory.

Repatriation From 'Riot' Camp Resumes 18 Jun

BK1806041092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0409 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Bangkok, June 18 (AFP)—Repatriation of Cambodian refugees from the largest camp on the Thai-Cambodian border resumed Thursday after an interruption of more than two weeks because of riots there, a senior United Nations official said.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation co-ordinator Jahanshah Assadi, speaking in a telephone interview from the Thai border city of Aranyaprathet, said 355 refugees had left the camp known as Site-2 by bus to cross into Cambodia.

But Assadi said the settlement, which houses some 210,000 people about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of Aranyaprathet, was still tense, with armed Cambodian police guarding key installations.

The camp was rocked by riots in early June when demonstrations by thousands of inmates demanding an increase in cash assistance given to refugees got out of control.

Several people were beaten and stabbed. The camp was closed to foreign aid workers until the beginning of this week and repatriation from the settlement was suspended in the first major hitch to the UNHCR scheme which went under way on March 30.

Under Cambodia's peace treaty signed last year by the Phnom Penh regime and rival anti-government guerrilla groups, the UNHCR was made responsible for returning to Cambodia 375,000 refugees from seven border camps in Thailand.

The camps are run by the guerrilla factions which fought the government during the war, the powerful Marxist Khmer Rouge and two small anti-communist movements. So far, about 29,000 Cambodian refugees, including Thursday's contingent, have returned home.

Earlier this week Sergio Vieira de Mello, special envoy for Cambodia of the UNHCR, told reporters here that demands for higher cash aid which sparked the Site-2 riots was just "a pretext."

He said the causes of the unrest, although not totally clear, involved "rivalry" between Cambodian administrators. Site-2 is run by the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

Vieira de Mello also said "outsiks" could have been involved in organising the riots but stopped short of accusing the Khmer Rouge.

There has been speculation that the group, which has blocked the peace process by refusing to go ahead with the U.N. disarmament programme of Cambodia's rival forces, had been behind the unrest.

Assadi described the resumption of the repatriation programme at Site-2 as "the first indication of recovery" in the settlement after the violence.

He said, however, that the camp had not completely returned to normal yet, pointing out that Cambodian police with assault rifles and light machine guns were deployed to guard key installations in the sprawling settlement, which at points is less than two kilometers (about one mile) from the Cambodian border.

Tokyo Conference Discussed, Previewed

BK1806055592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A4

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Tokyo—Renewed fighting in Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge's ongoing refusal to disarm will dominate the agenda of the upcoming major conference on Cambodia to be held here next week, according to diplomatic sources.

To demonstrate the international community's growing concern over the Khmer Rouge's intransigence, the conference plans to issue a declaration on the political situation in Cambodia urging all Cambodian factions to abide by the UN-brokered peace agreement signed last October in Paris.

"The declaration will not condemn the Khmer Rouge or refer to the group by name, as its purpose is to encourage it to join the peace process," said a diplomat involved in preparations for the conference to be held here next Monday.

The Khmer Rouge has refused to disarm its estimated 30,000 troops under the United Nations-brokered plan which calls for the cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of all armed fighters.

Phnom Penh and two other resistance groups have gone along with the plan.

A Japanese diplomat said that although the conference will be aimed at finding ways to reconstruct war-ravaged Cambodia, the worsening political situation in the country has now taken over the economic rehabilitation issue.

The renewed fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh governnent over the weekend in Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear has raised fears here that the second phase of the UN peace plan might collapse and the fighfing could intensify in days to come.

Yasushi Akashi, chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia has blamed the Khmer Rouge for the violation and described the situation as serious.

About 15 foreign ministers will join senior officials from 32 potential donor countries and international organizations on June 22 to lay down the framework and discuss the financial resources necessary to revitalize Cambodia and Indochina.

The conference is also expected to issue a declaration on the economic condition in Cambodia.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council, will lead the Cambodian delegation, which will include Prime Minister Hun Sen of Phnom Penh and Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The Khmer Rouge leader, Khieu Samphan, said he would not attend the meeting.

Sources close to the conference expressed the hope that Thailand's newly appointed Foreign Minister, Asa Sarasin, would be able to help convince the Khmer Rouge to lay dovn their arms and join the conference.

Asa met Khieu on Tuesday and urged the Khmer Rouge to go to Tokyo and called on the four factions to cooperate with the UN.

They said that Japan, as the host, is most anxious to see the success of the conference, which is expected to

approve an aid package close to US$1 billion, including Japan's financial commitment.

Japan is planning to contribute at least half of the funds pledged by donor countries.

Japan is also planning to send its self-defence force to Cambodia within the next few months under the just-passed peacekeeping operations law, which allows Japan to send soldiers abroad. Tokyo is dispatching a fact-finding team to Cambodia soon, before a final decision on whether to send its first detachment to fulfill Japan's expanded role in Cambodia.

Asa is leading a Thai delegation to the Tokyo conference. The minister will express Thailand's readiness to help reconstruct Cambodia with its available resources. Since October last year, Thailand has provided Bt [Baht] 170 million worth of technical and humanitarian assistance to Cambodia.

Thai Foreign Ministry officials said Thailand has no plan to make an additional financial commitment to Cambodia at the Tokyo conference.

Indonesia

Suharto, Pakistani, Nepalese Leaders on Summit

BK1506103392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0740 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, June 15 (OANA-ANTARA)—Chinese Premier Li Peng has congratulated President Suharto on the results of the general elections in Indonesia, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said here on Saturday.

The leaders met by chance when the president was entering a room at the Rio conference building. They shook hands while Li Peng congratulated him, Murdiono told reporters.

Suharto also received similar congratulations from Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif and the Swedish prime minister.

Earlier, President Suharto paid a courtesay call on Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello who hosted the United Nations conference on the environment and development (UNCED).

The two presidents discussed various issues of mutual concern, including follow-up efforts for the earth summmit, Murdiono said.

They shared the view that the summit had brought all countries to adopt a common attitude and a determination to jointly resolve global environmental problems.

On the occasion, Suharto invited the Brazilian president to visit Indonesia.

Suharto and the Pakistani prime minister discussed the planned Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Jakarta in September.

Suharto said that Indonesia faces a small problem in hosting the NAM summit due to political developments in Yugoslavia.

Murdiono explained that after the disintegration of Yugoslavia into a number of new republics, it is not clear which of these countries should represent Yugoslavia in the summit.

Before the disintegration, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was to hand over the NAM chairmanship to Indonesia at the opening of the September summit, Murdiono said.

During the talks, Indonesia and Pakistan agreed to increase bilateral economic and trade relations. Indonesia offered a counter-purchase system in an effort to equalise the trade balance between the two states.

Sharif said he would attend the NAM summit in Jakarta.

On Saturday, President Suharto also received the Nepalese premier during which they also discussed the NAM summit and bilateral issues.

The Nepalese premier expressed his desire for his country to be assisted by Indonesia with such things as the supply of fertilizer.

At the meeting with Suharto, the Swedish premier promised to send the Swedish foreign minister to the NAM summit.

The leaders shared similar views on the importance of successful development in the developing countries, and the need for the advanced countries to facilitate the flow of capital, free trade, and technological transfer to the developing nations.

Minister Murdiono told reporters that President Suharto had decided to return home one day earlier than scheduled. The president made the decision having seen that the earth summit was likely to achieve its objectives.

The president and his entourage will leave Brazil directly for Indonesia on Sunday, cancelling their planned one-night-stop-over plan in Las Palmas.

Minister Comments on Rio Biodiversity Agreement

BK1706102992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0924 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Jakarta, June 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—Minister of Forestry Hasrul Harahap said here on Wednesday that the endorsement of the convention on biodiversity by the earth summit in Rio de Janeiro over the weekend strengthens Indonesia's determination to continue preserving the diversity of its biospecies.

"We made preservation efforts such as launching of a reforestation, regreening and timber estate program even before the adoption of the convention in Brazil," the minister said when installing 221 graduates of a Senior Forestry High School (SKMA) here on Wednesday.

The minister made the remarks in connection with the signing of the convention by a number of countries, including indonesia, during the United Nations conference on environment and development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to 14.

Opened by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, the UNCED conference was the biggest of its kind in world history and was ettended by 178 UN member countries and a number of international agencies.

The financial source for the preservation of biodiversity in various countries was a sensitive issue during the summit.

"The awareness of the participating countries of the need to protect the environment was increasing but they pay more attention to their own interests when they discuss funding sources," the minister added.

The United States offered only 159 million US dollars for reforestation efforts which is relatively small compared with the 300 million US dollars made available by Indonesia to fund its own reforestation program.

Issues discussed during the earth summit will also be discussed in the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement summit in Jakarta as proof of the third world's concern over the environment, the minister said.

Official Comments on Japanese Troops Decision

BK1706110892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Jakarta, June 17 (AFP)—Japan has every right to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, a top Indonesian Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

"There is no problem with Japan," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "They have not only the duty but the right to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations."

Asked about Indonesia's reaction to Monday's passage by the Japanese Parliament of a controversial law allowing Japan to send troops abroad for the first time since World War II, under U.N. peacekeeping auspices, the official said it was time to move ahead.

"We are aware of the feelings of many people in the region, and in Indonesia as well, who have suffered" from Japanese aggression, added the official, whose country was occupied by Japan between 1942 and 1945.

"And we do not forget entirely the past." But, he said, "We cannot be a prisoner of the past."

Indonesia co-chaired with France the international conference on Cambodia that led to a peace accord last year, and it is expected that the Japanese peacekeepers' first foreign role will be in Cambodia. They would work with Indonesian, French and Australian troops in the period leading up to elections set for Cambodia's first free elections, in April or May 1993.

Laos

Thai Prince Returns From Xieng Khouang Province

BK1706132592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpts] At 0900 today, His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, was flown by a royal helicopter to Xieng Khouang Province. HRH the crown prince was welcomed at the Plain of Jars airfield by H.E. Phoumi Thipphavon, governor of Xieng Khouang Province, officials, and residents of Xieng Khouang Province. After that, the governor of Xieng Khouang Province accompanied HRH the Crown Prince in a motorcade on a field trip to the Plain of Jars. [passage omitted]

At 1200, the governor of Xieng Khouang Province hosted a luncheon in honor of HRH the crown prince. On the same afternoon, HRH the crown prince left Xieng Khouang Province for the capital, Vientiane, by a special royal plane.

Meets Thai Residents in Vientiane

BK1806040992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After returning to Vientiane at 1700 [on 17 June], Thai residents in Vientiane, led by His Excellency Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, were granted an audience with HRH [His Royal Highness] the crown prince at his residence in the capital. On this occasion, HRH the crown prince urged all Thai residents, both working in diplomatic service and carrying on other professions in Laos, to serve as good representatives of the Thai nation and people in promoting and enhancing the fraternal relations between the two peoples of Thailand and Laos.

Today, the sixth day of his visit to Laos, HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon will leave Vientiane for a visit to southern Champassak and Saravane Provinces. He will return to Vientiane on the afternoon of the same day.

Departs for Tour of South

BK1806092392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] At 0845 today, His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand left the capital Vientiane by a special royal plane for Pakse District, Champassak Province. The crown prince arrived at Pakse airfield at 1015 and was welcomed by Onneua Phommachan, governor of Champassak Province, and officials and Pakse district residents. He was then flown by royal helicopter to Nakhon Phapheng where he spent half an hour looking at scenic places in the area. At 1130, the prince left for Saravane Province by a special royal plane for a sight

seeing tour of Pak Lo and Pak Hang, where he was accorded a warm welcome by Thongvang Sihachak, governor of Saravane Province, and officials and residents of Saravane Provincial District.

The governor of Saravane Province will host a luncheon for the crown prince at 1300. After that, the prince is scheduled to tour the Se Set hydroelectric dam.

The construction of this dam began in late 1989 and was completed in mid-1991 with cooperation of the Lao Government and foreign countries. It is capable of generating 45,000 kilowatts of electricity. The Se Set hydroelectric project is highly efficient and provides some U.S $4 million a year in foreign currency revenue for Laos. In addition to this, the Nam Nguem hydroelectric project earns more than U.S. $12 million annually in foreign currency by selling electricity to foreign countries, especially Thailand. In the southern provinces of Laos, the Se Set hydroelectric project is an important stimulus for economic development and goods production, especially in agriculture and forestry.

The crown prince will return this afternoon to the capital Vientiane by the royal plane.

Khamphoui, Champassak Cadres Discuss Development

BK1706133992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Recently, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and minister of economy, planning, and finance, held a meeting with the leadership of Champassak Province on rural economic development. During the chat, Khamphoui Keoboualapha noted that the province is blessed with favorable conditions for gradually promoting goods production and increasing sources of raw materials. To achieve these goals, the minister pointed out some methods and lessons for rectifying certain economic problems of the province to make it confrom to the current sitation of our country. All leading cadres must concentrate their entire efforts and intellect to fulfill this task more efficiently.

Philippines

New President on Policies, Ties with U.S.

PM1806104092 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Jun 92 p 4

[Interview with new Philippines President Fidel Ramos by Philippe Pons; place and date not given]

[Text] [Pons] Mr. President, do you think you represent continuity or change?

[Ramos] Change, definitely. But we must pursue some directions or long-term projects which are dear to the Philippine people's hearts. This is true in particular of the energy policy which the country urgently needs. It will not simply be abandoned for the sake of innovation. The same is true of the new law on foreign investments which needs to be improved and implemented. On the other hand, our approach to some problems needs to be changed, and this is true of poverty, for instance.

[Pons] A member of the military has come to power. Experience has shown that this often leads to authoritarian regimes. Are you not afraid of giving that impression?

[Ramos] There is a fundamental difference. A former general is certainly coming to power, but by peaceful means and after an electoral process monitored by civilians. Even if it was a more dangerous path, that is how I intended to proceed. I hope that I will be credited with being more than just a soldier. I am acceding to the presidency without any debt to anybody, without any "overlord" to whom I am answerable. A career in the army does not have only negative aspects: It has enabled me to be in close relationship with men who now occupy positions of responsibility in the region's countries. In Korea, for instance, I am also linked to the leaders through the veterans' movement.

[Pons] Mrs. Aquino has restored the democratic institutions, but she has not succeeded in remedying the social injustices. Do you think you are in a better position to do so?

[Ramos] We are entering the second phase of people's power. Mrs. Aquino has fulfilled her mandate: to restore democracy and the institutions to ensure that freedom is respected. The Philippines is now one of the most advanced countries in that sphere. The citizens can oust an official who has failed in his task by petitions. We still need to give them the opportunity to take their destiny in hand by greater participation in local and national life and better access to the country's wealth. This is a priority.

The second is to guarantee political stability. I am not talking of stability in relation to the Communists or rebel soldiers. The most important thing is to work together on some national objectives. We are passengers on the same ship. The aim is no longer to be for or against Ramos, but to be pro-Philippine.

[Pons] You are a president elected by a minority. How do you intend to overcome that handicap?

[Ramos] By firmness and openness. Once again, the aim is to unite the forces. The other countries in the region are ahead of us and, if we do nothing, the gap will widen. Over and above the results of these elections in actual figures, the people's message is clear: The rejection of the traditional political system based on patronage and money. Look where we are now. I think that has been a fundamental renewal of the political class.

[Pons] Another failure of the Aquino government has been its inability to break with the past. We still do not know who is responsible for the murder of Ninoy Aquino, and Mrs. Marcos or Mr. Cojuangco have forged a new legitimacy by seeking the presidency. Will you show more determination?

[Ramos] The current process must be continued, especially with a view to restoring the misappropriated public money. As regards the murder of Ninoy Aquino, judgments have been delivered, but it is true that the instigator has not been found. The truth will be found in the course of time.

[Pons] Do you think that the current political structure based on the 1987 Constitution corresponds to the country's needs?

[Ramos] As I said during my campaign, the functioning of the political system must be changed. We do not just want to copy. We must have a Philippine model of democracy. The Philippines is an archipelago. We must have a system which is decentralized to the greatest possible extent with a view to efficiency and at the same time a central government which is strong enough to counter the centripetal tendencies which may be tempted to turn into secessionist forces.

[Pons] What measures do you intend to take to stimulate foreign investment which has declined greatly in recent years?

[Ramos] The essential factor is stability. We need a government on which we can rely which, in other words, is predictable. In addition we need to make the fiscal system more efficient. This does not mean that we must have new taxes. But we must rationalize the recovery of taxes.

[Pons] The agrarian reform promised by Mrs. Aquino has not really been implemented. What do you intend to do in that sphere?

[Ramos] The agrarian reform is not a panacea. The Aquino government has launched an agrarian reform program over 10 years. In view of the country's needs, I do not think that the main element is to distribute land, but rather to increase productivity. This is what we did starting with state-owned land.

[Pons] Following the closure of the American bases, the special relationship with the United States seems to have been undermined. How do you view its future?

[Ramos] In the diplomatic sphere, my priority will be to rethink the whole of U.S.-Philippine relations. The bases are only one aspect of those relations. Militarily, we are still linked by a security treaty. Relations with the United States must be placed in the broader context of our foreign policy. The closure of the bases must not be interpreted as a sign of an isolationist trend by the Philippines. How could we survive without strengthening the interdependence among the countries in the region?

[Pons] How do you view Japan's growing influence in this part of the world?

[Ramos] As the logical development of its economic power. However, I do not think that Japan will increase its military capabilities and that it represents a danger for the region.

[Pons] During the past six years, there has been little progress in relations with Europe.

[Ramos] I think that one of the ways of developing those relations is through membership of the Christian Democratic International. My government is the first Christian Democratic government in Asia.

Activists Criticize Japan's Peacekeeping Bill

OW1806075492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Manila, June 18 KYODO—Philippine leftist groups denounced Thursday what they called "forcible" passage of a law by the Japanese parliament allowing the deployment of troops overseas for the first time since World War II.

Some 50 peace activists, led by the New Patriotic Alliance (Bayan), picketed the Japanese Embassy to protest the possible dispatch of Japanese troops to war-torn Cambodia as part of the U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The demonstrators carried placards saying, "no to rearming, no to reinvasion," "down with militarists in the Japanese Diet," and "Cambodia today, Asia-Pacific tomorrow."

"The manner of enactment, despite the growing opposition in Japan and the peoples in the Asia and Pacific, mirrored how Japan will relate to neighboring countries and peoples in the future," the protesters said in a statement.

Aquino Defends Decisions During Administration

HK1806064992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By Vicky Robles]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today defended her decisions not to be influenced by any political party in her choice of cabinet members and to endorse a military man as the next president of the country.

According to the president, she did not allow herself to be identified with any political party because she did not want to be influenced by their partisan interests when making decisions regarding the country. She said her appointment of cabinet members would have been more disastrous had she allowed herself to be influenced by different power groups. She knew many people would disagree if she said she selected the best people for her cabinet; however, her administration can step down and claim with pride that it has maintained integrity in its choice of cabinet members.

Although she did not always win in everything and there were times when she thought her endorsement of Ramos was an exercise in futility because of his lack of political support and veteran campaigners, she nonetheless won her last battle.

She also confessed to being slighted when asked about her other contributions to the country besides the restoration of

democracy. The president said although freedom cannot fuel the machines of progress, freedom should never be sacrificed in the pursuit of economic growth. She said that doing so would only result in the failure of all social systems, as in the case of the Marcos regime.

Here is President Aquino's rebuttal to criticism of her administration:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] And I quote: It is not the critics who count, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or when the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man in the arena whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who sowed valiantly; who errs and [word indistinct] again and again; because there is no effort without error and shortcoming. Indeed, the praise belongs to the man who actually survives; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion; who spends himself on a worthy cause; who at best knows that there is an end that follows as high as achievement; and at the worst, if he fails, shall [words indistinct] so that this place shall never be without [word indistinct] or civic soul who know neither victory nor defeat. [applause]

I have not always won; but to the very end, I never start a fight and did not lose the last one. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Ramos, Estrada May Be Proclaimed on 23 June

HK1706132992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Congress has confirmed that president-apparent Fidel Ramos and vice president-apparent Joseph Estrada may be proclaimed on Tuesday, 23 June.

The proclamation will be made after the joint Congress session formally presents its final canvass report on Friday [19 June].

In view of this, Commission on Elections Chairman Christian Monsod stressed that the only thing that Ramos's opponents can do is to file election protests. Monsod clarified that there is no more basis for other presidential candidates to bar the proclamation of the new president and vice president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Ramos To Change Country's Image

HK1806005592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Italicized passage in English]

[Text] President-Elect Fidel Ramos vowed to erase the Philippine's image of a nation always seeking financial aid. In an interview in Malacanang, Ramos said his administration will adopt a *more trade, less aid* policy. He said he will try to make the Philippines a donor country instead of always asking for donations. Ramos particularly cited strengthening trade with other countries as a means of improving the country's economy.

Santiago Reportedly Tries for Delay

HK1706124192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By Cesar Chavez]

[Text] The People's Reform Party [PRP] will hinder Congress' proclamation of president-elect Fidel Ramos and vice president-elect Joseph Estrada, which is scheduled to take place next week.

In a telephone interview, Homobono Adaza, PRP legal counsel, said he recommended apparently defeated presidential candidate Mrs. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to ask the Supreme Court to defer Congress's proclaiming of Ramos and Estrada.

The petition, according to Adaza, has firm proof to make the Supreme Court stop Congress proclaiming the winners of the presidential and vice presidential elections.

Adaza said there are 3 million questionable votes that were counted by the joint congressional committee. This is in view of reports of alleged widespread fraud with certificates of canvass and election returns.

The petition by the PRP to stop Congress proclaiming Ramos and Estrada is scheduled to be filed in the Supreme Court before the end of the week.

The joint congressional committee is having a closed-door meeting and is outlining the final canvass report it will submit to the joint congress session on Friday [19 Jun] or Monday [22 Jun].

Further on Santiago Challenge

HK1806134592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1301 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By Ron Bayani]

[Text] Miriam Defensor Santiago, through her lawyer, Alex Padilla, filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to stop Congress from proclaiming Fidel Ramos as the next Philippine president until votes counted will have been based on election returns and not on the certificates of canvass.

Santiago said it is Congress' duty to canvass based on the election returns in case contents of the certificates of canvass are questionable, which, she hinted would affect the election results.

Santiago claimed that there was wholesale fraud, saying it can be proven if Congress studies election returns coming from the precincts.

She claims there are still 2,000 missing precints from the report submitted to the canvassing committee, including thousands of statements of votes which can affect the estimated 8 million tally.

Santiago explained that the proclamation delay will not affect normal administrative functions because the incumbent vice president or the present Congress can, in the meantime, take over.

Ramos Not To Interfere in House Speaker Race

HK1606052492 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] Fidel V. Ramos yesterday said he is taking a "hands off" policy in the tussle for the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Right now, I'm not talking about the speakership (but) the canvassing and proclamation," Ramos told reporters after meeting with party leaders led by Rep Jose de Venecia, Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] secretary general. De Venecia is an aspirant for the speakership.

"President-elect Ramos said he is not supporting anybody for the speakership. He is taking a hands-off policy," Rep Jaime Lopez (Lakas-NUCD, Manila), said.

Lopez and Rep. Jose Ong (Lakas-NUCD, Samar) said Ramos did not ask them to support De Venecia's bid for Speaker.

But De Venecia had a contrary view. "I think President-elect Ramos is waiting for his and the vice president's proclamation. He is concentrating on the transition arrangements from the Aquino government to the incoming Ramos government," he said.

Lopez, however, said Ramos could be eyeing a possible alliance with Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] secretary general, who is also an aspirant for the speakership.

To win as Speaker, a candidate needs to get the votes of 101 members of the House. There are 52 Lakas-NUCD congressmen, while the LDP has the majority with 87 congressmen.

Five LDP congressmen who are also eyeing the speakership have met with Ramos in an effort to come up with a "working arrangement" between the legislative and executive departments, a source in the Lakas-NUCD said.

The official described the meeting held last Friday as "constructive" but siad nothing substantial was reached.

The source said Ramos wanted to work out an arrangement with House leaders to forge a "healthy working climate."

The meeting with Ramos was attended by Cojuangco, Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco, and Representatives Miguel Romero (Negros Oriental), Hemando Perez (Batangas), and Rodolfo del Rosario (Davao del Norte).

Ramos Asks Cojuangco's Support

HK1806012792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] President-elect Fidel Ramos has requested losing presidential candidate Eduardo Cojuangco to support his ally, Congresman Jose de Venecia, who is running for the speakership of the House of Representatives. A source said Cojuangco acceded to the request when he and Ramos met Sunday [14 Jun] night.

Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition had earlier announced plans to join an alliance with the ruling LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] but it is still not clear who LDP will field as a candidate for the position to be left by Ramon Mitra Jr.

The only problem for De Venecia would be when President Corazon Aquino asks Ramos to support her brother, Jose Peping Cojuangco of the LDP.

Inflation Increase Worries Central Bank

HK1606052792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 16 Jun 92 p 9

[By Rosario T. Galang]

[Text] The Central Bank [CB] is not entirely sold on the recommendation of the Krugman report to devalue the peso to increase exports which in turn will spur economic growth.

CB Governor Jose Cuisia, Jr., presiding over the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry [PCCI] committee on monetary and fiscal policies held last Saturday said that "CB cannot look only at the export sector" in implementing monetary reforms.

Cuisia cited as an example that there was a 25 percent depreciation of the peso in 1990 but whatever beneficial effects it had on exports were wiped out by higher inflation.

The primary concern of the CB now, Cuisia said, is to contain inflation.

"There was a big bloop in May and we will have to try to mop out that," Cuisia said.

Inflation rate in May reached 9.2 percent, reversing the decelerating trend since last September.

"We're so used to double digit inflation", Cuisia said, "but the May figure is already a cause for concern."

Other Asian countries start worrying when their inflation rate reaches five percent, Cuisia said.

The CB governor has also been quoted that higher yielding CB instruments will be offered to the public to mop up the excess liquidity.

CB is particularly concerned with high inflation since it leads to high interest rates.

In 1987 when inflation rate was down to 3.11 percent, interest rates on loans went as low as 7 percent. When inflation rose to 8.8 percent, interest jacked up to 14 percent.

Now that inflation is at 9.2 percent, interest rates range from 15-17 percent.

Cuisia is concerned that when the inflation started to decelerate in September last year, interest rates did not drop as fast as it should. This has particularly peeved Cuisia and he worries now that inflation is peaking, interest rates will rise faster.

Interest rates did not drop as fast, Cuisia himself said, because bankers are not convinced the budgetary deficit will not be kept at a low level.

There is a current budget surplus of P4 billion [pesos] as of last May, but this can be easily wiped out because of the government's lack of revenues.

This again leads to another grave problem on whether the government can keep its fiscal deficit on hold and not exceed the target agreed upon with its creditors.

The government has lost two major sources of funds, first is the import levy and second is the estimated P1 billion loss in personal tax exemptions which the Supreme Court ruled should apply in 1991 returns and not this year.

For the government to maintain the consolidated public sector deficit at a maximum of 2.5 percent of gross national product, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao had recommended that there should be less subsidies to the National Power Corp., the OPSF, the National Food Authority, National Irrigation Administration, National Electrification Authority and to put a cap on fiscal subsidies the Board of Investments grants to registered firms.

In the PCCI meet it was also agreed that the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget Management be merged.

To further reduce fiscal deficit, it was proposed that bureaucracy be trimmed, a politically unpalatable move.

Cuisia estimates that close to 75 percent of government budget goes to personnel cost.

Cuisia also disclosed that he favors the entry of more foreign banks in the commercial banking system.

But he said that CB is more amenable for commercial banks to establish branches here rather than buy into local banks.

He said that "now is the time for foreign banks' branches to come in to enforce competition in the system".

CB favors the entry of foreign banks since they tend to bring in investments.

The government, however, will still have to resolve the question on ownership and prevent "discrimination" against Filipinos in their own countries.

At present Filipino families can only hold the maximum 20 percent ownership in banks while corporations are limited to 30 percent.

The Teves bill currently in Congress allows foreigners to own up to 70 percent of the bank.

Abadia Names New Northern Luzon Command Chief

HK1806041192 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia yesterday named a new commanding general for the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Abadia designated Brigadier General Romulo Yap as the new head of the regional command, replacing Brig Gen Ernesto Caluping who has retired from the service. Yap will head what is known to be one of the biggest area commands of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines].

Yap, who was commanding general of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division in Samar-Leyte, was in turn replaced in his former post by Brig Gen Ruperto Ambil, former Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for retiree and reservist affairs.

The designations by Abadia, who presided over the turnover ceremonies at the Nolcom headquarters in Camp Aquino in Tarlac yesterday, were perceived by observers to be part of the changes being made in the higher echelons of the military, particularly the area commands.

The designations come at a time when a bill recently signed by President Aquino providing for the upgrading of the position of Armed Forces area commander awaits implementation.

The measure provides for the upgrading to two stars (major general) the rank of AFP officers holding the position of area commander.

Of the six area commands of the AFP, only the Southern Command (Southcom) chief, Major General Gumerendo Yap, holds a two-star rank.

The other area commands are, aside from the Nolcom and the Southcom, the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), the Visayas Command (Viscom), the Western Command (Wescom), and the National Capital Region Command (NCRDC).

The measure, however, does not prescribe the upgrading to two- star rank the position of NCRDC area commander, a situation which has sparked a controversy from the Metro Manila-based command. The current head of the NCRDC is Brig Gen Thelmo Cunanan.

The new bill will benefit the commanding generals of the Nolcom, the Solcom, the Wescom, the Viscom, and the superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), as soon as the measure gets the green light from both the executive and the legislative branches.

Thailand

Anan Appoints Secretary, Government Spokesman

BK1706135992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Prime Minister's Orders No. 110/1992 and 111/1992 on appointment of prime minister's secretary and the Prime Minister's Office spokesman]

[Text] Empowered by Article 8 of the Political Appointees Act of 1992 and the cabinet authorization dated 24 May 1983 and 22 April 1992, the prime minister appoints Wit Rayanon as a political appointee serving in the position of secretary to the prime minister and Montri Chenwitkan as a political appointee serving in the position of spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office. The orders are effective 17 June 1992.

Dated 17 June 1992
[Signed] Anan Panyarachun, prime minister

General Election Likely in Aug or Early Sep

BK1806033192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The upcoming general election is likely to be held in late August or early September, according to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

But the caretaker premier and Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin said yesterday that the Anan Government will not be amending the Election Act or the Political Party Act.

Mr Anan told reporters he has been saying it almost every day since his return as premier that his primary task was to arrange a general election.

Mr Anan confirmed that the polls would be held either at the end of August or September but declined to name the exact date.

He did not confirm or deny the possibility of his dissolving the House as early as next week but said his Cabinet had not reached any resolution to allow him to do that by next Tuesday at the earliest.

But Pol Gen Phao said tough legal and disciplinary action would be taken against government officials found to be involved in vote-buying during the run-up to the election.

Pol Gen Phao, who is also concurrently serving as interior minister, made the above statement to ministry officials on his first day in office yesterday.

He told them that the interim government's main policy is to hold a clean and fair election free of vote-buying.

Pol Gen Phao said the ministry will throw its full support behind the Election Watchdog Commission or Poll-Watch which would be overseeing the election both in Bangkok and the provinces.

He said efforts would be made to give PollWatch more power so as to make it work more effectively.

He said he has held consultations with his two deputies, Anek Sitthiprasat and Charoenchit na Songkhla, and Permanent Secretary for Interior Anan Anantakun to find ways and means of getting rid of dark influences.

Village chiefs and kamnans, who have a key role to play in the election, will be invited to listen to the ministry's election policies.

The election law will not be amended but it will be strictly enforced, he said.

Even the Constitution's Article 35 which prohibits election candidates from hosting lavish parties and feasts for eligible voters or promising them any kind of post-election reward will not be revised, he said.

"Neither will the Anan II administration consider switching the vote-counting place from a polling unit to a district office, he said.

The House Local Administration Committee is to ask the Interior Ministry to scrap certain election regulations which are undemocratic, chairman Chamni Sakset said yesterday.

The request will be made to top officials of the Police and Local Administration Departments [LAD] as well as the permanent secretary for Interior when they meet next Wednesday.

Mr Chamni said included among these undemocratic regulations is also a law that prohibits political parties from organising political rallies inside government compouds.

He said it has also been found that some government officials have failed to maintain their neutrality by serving some politicians to curry favour from them during past elections and the problem would be discussed at length by the ministry.

The Solidarity Party MP said his committee was of the view that PollWatch's role should be limited to only monitoring the elections.

PollWatch volunteers should be strictly neutral and not local people who could be easily influenced by politicians.

The past election showed that election volunteers had failed to maintain their neutrality Chamni said.

The LAD would be given some 449 million baht to organise the next general election with a planned three per cent increase in the number of polling units nationwide.

There were about 5,600 polling units in the March 22 election throughout the country which contained some 6,900 villages.

Deputy Prime Minister Kasem Suwannakun confirmed yesterday that PollWatch will need more volunteers than previously thought to ensure a "cleaner" election.

PollWatch volunteers will be posted at polling units across the country under arrangements with provincial governors and district chief officers, the commission chairman said.

In the March 22 general election, some 30,000 PollWatch volunteers were operating with the permission of the governors and district chief officers on a case-by-case basis.

This time, according to Mr Kasem, PollWatch prefers to make governors and district chief officers, at the instruction of the Interior Ministry, post its own volunteers at polling units in their respective provinces.

A higher operating budget will also be sought for PollWatch from the Government this time.

Samakkhi Tham Rift Reported as Founder Resigns

BK1806053992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A2

[Text] Thiti Nakhonthap, a key founder of the military Samakkhi Tham Party, resigned as party secretary-general yesterday amid reported internal rifts following deputy leader Athit Urairat's violation of a party resolution in his nomination of the prime minister.

The biggest party faction, northern MPs led by Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan, immediately planned to push Buri Ram Province MP Anuwat Watthanaphongsi into taking over the powerful party post, a source said.

Speaking to reporters after a party meeting, Thiti said he resigned because he had intended, since the formation of the party, not to take up any political post.

"Now, I have kept my word," Thiti said. "I won't accept any party post, even after being nominated to the same post again."

Thiti said a party election will be held tomorrow to name his successor, who he said should come from the ranks of northeastern MPs. He did not elaborate.

Thiti said he planned to resign after the March 22 election but was prevented by political crises from doing so until yesterday.

The source said Thiti was asked by many party MPs to stay on as party secretary general because he was close to Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin. Thiti is a retired squadron leader.

The source said no northern MPs voiced objection to Thiti's resignation because they planned to push Anuwat, who had defected from the Chat Thai Party, into the powerful party post.

The Samakkhi Tham is the biggest party, with 79 MPs who had mostly defected from other parties, and contains several intra-party factions. Narong's faction commands more than 30 MPs.

The internal rifts have resurfaced after House Speaker Athit acted against the party resolution by appointing Anan Panyarachun, instead of Chat Thai Party leader Sombun Rahong, as prime minister.

Athit was reportedly pondering leaving the party and sources said his supporters were trying to lobby a group of MPs who had defected from the Social Action Party (SAP) to follow the House speaker out of Sammakkhi Tham.

The group of about 20 former SAP dissidents were led by Khon Kaen MP Chawalit Otsathanukhro and Mai Sirinawakun from Kalasin province. Athit's supporters, who were dubbed Young Turks, included Somsak Khunngoen from Khon Kaen province and Nong Khai MP Phinit Charusombat.

In a related development, Chat Thai Party sources said yesterday that Sombun would stay with the party and not defect to Samakkhi Tham as he had said.

Sombun said last week that he was approached by Samakkhi Tham to become either its leader or secretary general but he might accept the post of party adviser.

The four opposition parties, meanwhile, have decided to abandon their earlier plan to avoid confrontation during the next general election.

Phalang Tham Party MP Udomsin Sisaengnam said yesterday that the secretaries general of the Phalang Tham, Democrat , Solidarity and New Aspiration parties had agreed to cancel the plan.

"There will be no cooperation in that way," Udomsin said. "Each party has to provide its own candidates for the public's choosing. Otherwise it would be like an insult to the public, if we cooperate that way."

Finance Minister To Adopt Strict Fiscal Policy

BK1806085992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p B12

[Text] Finance Minister Panat Simasathian yesterday announced that the Anan government will adopt a strict fiscal policy during its short tenure under which the fiscal reserve of Bt150 billion will not be used.

The monetary policy will continue to be relaxed to allow market forces to function, he said, adding that the government will also pursue measures to bridge the investment/savings gap.

The government will not alter its revenue collection targets for the new fiscal year, the budget, for which remains unchanged at a total of Bt [baht] 550 billion, according to Panat, former permanent secretary of the finance minstry for nearly a decade.

Panat yesterday informed various departments of his policy. He said he will pursue policies laid down by predecessor Suthi Singsane, who declined to take up the portfolio again. The fiscal management will be austere and the fiscal reserve will be not used as suggested by some parties as a means to stimulate economic activity.

Panat vowed to maintain fiscal discipline so that the foundation of Thai economic strengths is not affected. However, the monetary policy will still be relaxed under a liberal regime. He said the government will not intervene and will let market forces function fully.

"We'll not initiate new (spending) projects since the tenure is short. The government will not increase its spendings to stimulate the economy because our economic foundation wasn't hurt by the May events. Only our confidence was badly hurt. Economically, it's business as usual. Politically, it depends on the next election."

The ministry will continue to promote domestic savings. He said the 15 per cent income tax on interests from deposits will be reviewed to see if abandoning the tax will help savings much. He said the granting of seven mutual fund licences by the first Anan government was an effective method to promote savings. Of the seven, four have started operations.

The Cabinet yesterday approved a Bt500-million budget for several agencies, including the Interior and Agriculture ministries to help people affected by drought. The fund will be drawn from this year's budget. Panat said the May political crisis should not hurt revenue collection, the target for which remains unchanged.

"There could be impact in terms of revenue from the tourism industry, but this will not affect the whole target and our objective to maintain a balanced budget for this year. In other words, we'll lose the profit (surplus tax revenue)," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the proposed Bt340-million budget to rehabilitate the tourism industry wasn't discussed at the Monday Cabinet meeting. He said it is impossible to draw an advance from the next fiscal year's budget since there has not been a final decision on the new budget.

Generals' Refusal To Testify in Probe Faulted

BK1806070992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Generals' Arrogance Only Keeps Thailand in Crisis"]

[Text] The House committee probing last month's bloodshed did the right thing when it reaffirmed on Tuesday its earlier decision to demand personal testimony from three of the key figures responsible for the crackdown on demonstrators during the May 17-20 events. But Supreme Commander and Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army Commander Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi stonewalled by sending only written testimony reiterating an unrepentant, hard-line position. And ACM Anan Kalintha, the interior minister in the Suchinda administration, wouldn't even explain his refusal to cooperate.

These men contend they have nothing to hide, but their evasiveness suggests otherwise. They stick to an inaccurate and distorted version of events, claiming that organized provocateurs destroyed public property and spread vicious rumours to raise tensions and that snipers provoked violence by shooting at both authorities and demonstrators. In retrospect, this version of events seems absurd, but this is exactly what was spoon-fed a national TV audience by military propagandists during the crisis. A videotape of this version, similar to the one shown on TV Channel 9 last month, is being shown in the official and military circles in the provinces to drive home the message that the crackdown was "necessary" to save Bangkok from further chaos and, more importantly, to protect the monarchy from some vague, unnamed enemy.

There were even more ridiculous claims from ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong in their written testimony. Inexperienced soldiers panicked when attacked by fire bombs, and dropped to the ground to start firing their assault rifles at their attackers in self-defence! Four or five people were shot and wounded and they were all promptly rushed for treatment at Phra Mongkut Army Hospital.

No one gave an order to shoot the demonstrators, the two top commanders claimed. The slight problem of soldiers being seen on videotape carefully aiming and firing their assault rifles and pistols directly into the crowds was explained away as shooting at buses being pushed by demonstrators into soldiers' lines. Again this was supposedly in self-defence as the soldiers were under an order to hold the line near Democracy Monument. The two commanders generously conceded, however, that the shooting at the buses might have inflicted "unintended" casualties, which they and their soldiers "deeply regretted" and had tried unsuccessfully to avoid.

This whitewash leaves entirely unexplained why dozens of victims have been found shot in the chest, the back and the head. Autopsies have shown that many of the dead were shot at point-blank range, given the amount of gunpowder found around their fatal head wounds.

In fact, there is absolutely no evidence to show that soldiers and their commanders exercised "extreme self-restraint" or that they used their war weapons only in self-defence, as claimed by the military leaders. In some cases, even when soldiers had completely subdued demonstrators, taken them prisoner and tied their hands behind their backs, they continued to kick their victims and hit them with rifle butts. Some were even robbed

before they were sent to detention centres. The soldiers clearly had been brainwashed to see the demonstrators as an enemy—not as fellow Thai citizens with a legitimate political cause.

Part of the brutality was vividly recorded on videotape by a foreign correspondent when a group of soldiers charged into the Royal Hotel on May 19 morning. This videotape was shown on world-wide TV news programmes. Yet ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong continue to claim that there was "no violence" in the hotel raid and fault the international media for spreading "rumours" to destroy Thailand's beautiful and peaceful image.

The two commanders also insist that they strictly abided by the nation's laws and the legitimate instructions of then premier Gen Suchinda Khraprayun in trying to quell the unrest. What they are in fact doing is taking advantage of the general amnesty granted under the controversial emergency decree hastily issued by Suchinda before his resignation from the premiership on May 24.

ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong have denied any responsibility and refused to resign, arrogantly arguing that the entire Thai nation was jointly responsible for what happened. Meanwhile, they are trying to rally their men in uniform to help protect "military honour" with their "lives and souls", and in the process shield the top two and other senior Army officers from public accountability.

The military commanders should have resigned their posts long ago to take responsibility for the loss of life, whether they felt guilty or not. And if they do truly believe that truth is on their side, they could still resign in the name of national reconciliation and try to clear their names in front of the House investigation committee and the parallel government-appointed committee.

But by refusing to appear to testify, the top two clearly demonstrate that they do not feel entirely innocent, and insult the public in the meantime. It is high time that Premier Anan Panyarachun or Defence Minister Gen Banchop Bunnak, who have pledged a thorough, fair investigation into the May bloodshed, order ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong to defend their case in person before the two committees, and thus face up to the reality of what they have done.

Crackdown Planned in Advance

BK1806050592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 92 p A3

[Text] Testimonies by the supreme commander and Army chief clearly indicated that they had planned in advance 10 days before the May 17-20 bloodshed to use force to crush prodemocracy demonstrations, a Phalang Tham Party MP said yesterday.

Ruangwit Dutsadisuraphot said Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin also made contradictory statements to justify the bloody crackdown..

In the earlier part of their written testimonies, the two military chiefs said the May 6 rally in front of Parliament showed signs of escalating into violence so they approved the use of a military plan to forcibly end the demonstrations, Ruangwit said.

But in the latter part of their statements, Itsaraphong and Kaset called those who took part in the May 4-11 rallies peaceful demonstrators while condemning the protesters from May 17-20 as agitators, the Bangkok MP said.

Itsaraphong, Kaset and former Interior Minister ACM Anan Kalintha submitted their written testimonies on Tuesday to a House committee which was set up to probe the bloodshed.

Ruangwit said Itsaraphong had decided to implement operation Phairiphinat (Crush the Enemy) on May 6, claiming that the ongoing rally could escalate into riots at anytime.

"On May 6, 1992, the Capital Security Command director [Itsaraphong] sought permission from the national security commander [Kaset] to use operation Phairiphinat/33," Itsaraphong said in his testimony.

"This was because intelligence reports and [other signs] showed that unrest would take place in Bangkok and might spread to outlying areas. Peaceful demonstrations were shifting to violent actions which would greatly affect the overall economy and society".

"I considered that the situation was tending to develop into riots so I ordered Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi in his capacity of chief of the security command and other unit commanders to be prepared to implement an existing military plan to ease the situation," Kaset said in his separate testimony.

But, Ruangwit said, the most violent incident that occurred during the May 6 rally in front of Parliament was when four or five angry protesters threw plastic bottles over the Parliament gate, causing no injuries.

The Phalang Tham MP added that the two generals had also lied in their testimonies.

Ruangwit cited as an example the military chiefs' claims that soldiers were ordered to crush the demonstrations only after policemen failed to control the situation.

"In fact, security forces, more than 90 per cent of whom were soldiers, had been sent to the Phan Fa Bridge area before the demonstrators arrived there," Ruangwit said.

"This indicated that the military troops had been prepared to crush demonstrators even before they started moving from Sanam Luang," Ruangwit said.

The Bangkok MP also disputed the two generals' accounts that some demonstrators were shot by accident when the troops bent down to take cover while confronting the protesters.

Ruangwit said video-taped scenes clearly showed that soldiers opened fire directly at the crowds. This was also confirmdd by reporters and eyewitnesses.

The Phalang Tham MP said he would submit these observations to the ad hoc House panel.

The panel's deputy chairman, Udomsin Sisaengnam, yesterday criticized Itsaraphong, Kaset and Anan for failing to turn up to give verbal testimonies.

Udomsin, also a Phalang Tham MP, said the panel wanted to question the three generals on many points because "their testimonies contained mostly distorted information".

"It's a pity that they would not show up," Udomsin said. "All people across the country and the whole world want to know the truth so that the democracy heros can rest in peace." The deputy chairman said the three generals had insulted Parliament by failing to cooperate in the probe.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun had said on Tusday the government's investigation into the May 17-20 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, and the effort to bring those responsible to account, would be handled in a straightforward way.

Transfer of Military Leaders Urged

BK1706015792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jun 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Go! The Country Has No Use for You"]

[Text] Written testimony provided by the military top brass to the parliamentary committee investigating the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in the May 17-20 protests merely serves to epitomise their lack of repentance and insensitivity to the public mood. Despite waves of condemnation from both domestic and international quarters, Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and Army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi have essentially reiterated their position that the use of force to suppress the demonstrators on Ratchadamnoen Avenue was legitimate.

While the former claimed the use of force was necessary to prevent the May riots from spreading and causing more damage, the latter was more specific in stating that members of the Capital Security Command under his control were instructed to "sacrifice their lives" to protect the country's three sacred institutions and the Chitlada Palace.

This written testimony shows how little things have changed at the top of the Armed Forces. In hindsight, the intransigent position of the military top brass does not come as a total surprise. The former military chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun went against widespread public sentiment opposing the perpetuation of military power in politics when he accepted the premiership in April, and continued defying extensive public demonstrations against his premiership in the early part of May.

He displayed a complete loss of touch with reality during the subsequent massive rallies by accusing the protesters of being part of a communist-inspired conspiracy to change the country's political system. And in the face of widespread condemnation at home and abroad in the aftermath of the bloody military crackdown, both ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong—the two most senior officers who, through the line of command, were responsible for the crackdown—are now insisting that their action was correct and legitimate.

Against the unrelenting calls from various quarters for legal action to be taken against those who were responsible for causing the May bloodshed, the top military hierarchy's intransigent position bodes ill for the national effort to heal the deep wounds that were inflicted in the minds of the public by the massacre in May. It also underscores the difficult path lying ahead for the pro-democracy groups in their struggle for a greater degree of democracy for the country. After the military crackdown on progressive elements during the October 1973 uprising and the October 1976 bloody coup, a more assertive middle class spanning a wide spectrum of various professional groups is not prepared to allow the abusers of power to escape accountability and responsibility this time. And unless one of the two contesting forces gives ground, our society could be heading for yet another ugly confrontation. Notwithstanding the latest written testimonies submitted by ACM Kaset and Gen Itsaraphong and previous accounts given by other officials, the events of May 17-20 have shown beyond any doubt that excessive military force was used in a manner more brutal than that employed in the October 1973 uprising—all to the detriment of the country's economy and social fabric. Though many more measures are needed to bring the country back to some semblance of normalcy, the military top brass can take the first step to ease tension by resigning their posts. That is, of course, if they are as genuinely concerned about the national interest as they have stated so frequently. But if they remain intransigent, it would be the duty of the interim government—specifically Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Defence Minister Gen Banchop Bunnak—to see to it that they are transferred from their posts.

Amnesty Decree, Constitutional Tribunal Viewed

BK1706035192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Jun 92 p A8

[Text] The eight-member Constitutional Tribunal under the chairmanship of House Speaker Athit Urairat meets again today, a week after the Opposition submitted its second appeal calling for the legal experts to nullify the emergency decree, promulgated by disgraced prime minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun on May 23, that establishes a blanket amnesty for all involved or responsible for the May 17-20 unrest.

The Opposition's contention in opposing the emergency amnesty decree is that it goes against Article 172 of the

Constitution. In their petition to the Tribunal, the members of the Opposition have said: "The amnesty decree which covers members of the government forces who killed and hurt the people, did not solve the conflict that caused the unrest. On the contrary, it breeds hostility between members of the public and the authorities."

In their first petition to the Constitutional Tribunal at the end of May, the Opposition called for the annulment of the decree on the grounds that the Suchinda administration promulgated it in a non-emergency situation. On June 3 the Tribunal threw out the Opposition call by saying that it did not have the authority to determine whether the blanket decree was issued in an emergency or not. Article 173 allows the parliamentarians to appeal against an emergency decree only by questioning if it is in national interest to have such a special law.

Article 172 explicitly states that an emergency decree must ensure national security and public safety, but as it stands right now the emergency blanket amnesty allows the recurrence of bloody massacres, and in fact is causing insecurity and danger for the public and the country. The perpetrators of the crime—the commanders who ordered the troops to fire upon the people between May 17-20—are still free and unpunished.

Though the Constitutional Tribunal is only supposed to rule on points of law in Articles 172 and 173, and is not obliged to listen to public deliberations, it however has decided to invite members of the Suchinda Cabinet to testify and will seek documents from the Cabinet Secretariat. This is indeed laudable, because it indicates that the rules of common law and equity will be taken into account instead of a one-way technical interpretation of Article 172. In other words, the Constitutional Tribunal is now willing to temper justice with mercy.

Pertinent questions have to be addressed by the tribunal members. First, was there a real emergency to warrant the promulgation of the blanket amnesty decree on May 23? Certainly not. The pro-democracy protesters at Ratchdamnoen Road had already dispersed on May 21 following His Majesty the King's statement that all conflicting parties should resolve matters in an amicable manner. On the same morning, the students in Ramkhamhaeng University had ended their pro-democracy rally without any outward violent incidents or damage to public property.

Secondly, according to clause one of Article 172, any emergency decree, in order to be promulgated by the prime minister, must have the approval of the full Cabinet. The manner in which Suchinda's deputy Michai Ruchupan (the mastermind of the emergency amnesty decree) sought Cabinet approval is highly questionable. Early on May 23, a Saturday, Michai drafted the emergency decree, and then sent circulars to all the Cabinet members instructing them to voice their grievances by midday if they had objections in its issuance.

As it turned out, only Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit, a deputy premier in Suchinda's Cabinet, opposed the emergency amnesty decree, and sent in his notification before the deadline. The objection was however taken as a minority view by Suchinda, and so the ex-army chief went to see the King on the night of May 23 with the decree, and to inform His Majesty of his decision to step down.

One of newly-appointed Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's immediate priorities is to make people in Thailand feel more secure, and his defence minister, Gen Banchop Bunnak, has pledged full support for a continuing investigation into the Ratchdamnoen massacre and hinted at the possibility of removing military leaders responsible for the May bloodbath. Banchop, one of the 14-members af the fact-finding commission led by Supreme Court President Sophon Ratthanakon said on Sunday: "Justice is our principle. This will be upheld by everybody involved in the investigation."

But if the 14-member fact-finding commission and the parallel 49-member House committee formed to look into human rights abuses are to function effectively, the emergency amnesty decree will first have to be nullified by the Constitutional Tribunal. If this is not done, then ironically the fact-finding commission and the House committee would not be able to implicate the wrongdoers, let alone subpoena witnesses to its hearings because with the emergency decree in place all parties are presumed innocent.

Attempts to make everyone forgive and forget or to paper over what happened are tantamount to condoning murder. Already the gory details of the human rights abuses committed by the authorities against the people are coming out into the open.

Pol Maj Gen Uthai Asawawilai, assistant commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau, in testimony before the 49-member House committee on Friday, said he had enough evidence to believe that several of those killed between May 17-20 had been shot at pointblank range. According to a report compiled by a group of doctors, a large number of people killed in the May bloodbath were shot in the head. The Forensic Medicine Institute in Mahidon University said it found evidence from the autopsies conducted on the bodies of pro-democracy protesters that soldiers had deliberately shot to kill.

We all like to think that we have transcended barbarism and are endowed with a conscience. But if such crimes are allowed to go unpunished it will just go to show how little our society has evolved. The Constitutional Tribunal should take this into account today when it considers the emergency decree. Given the danger this amnesty poses to Thailand, a strictly legalistic ruling is not sufficient. The Tribunal has a duty to the people and the security of the nation to see to it that such atrocities cannot easily happen again.

Government Uneasy Over Pressuring Khmer Rouge

BK1806062292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, June 18 (AFP)—The Thai Government is showing signs of unease at international calls on it to pressure the Khmer Rouge to rejoin Cambodia's peace process, diplomats and analysts said here Thursday.

"They did not particularly like being fingered," said a source familiar with developments in Cambodia.

Thailand was a key ally of the Khmer Rouge during the 13-year Cambodia war which ended last year when the powerful Marxist group and other guerrilla groups signed a peace treaty with Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government.

But relations with the Khmer Rouge, whose massive military assistance from China during the war was shipped through Thai territory, have traditionally been the domain of Thailand's military rather than government leaders.

Cambodia's U.N. chief Yasushi Akashi has specifically sought support from both Thailand and China following the refusal by the Khmer Rouge to take part in the disarming and demobilisation of most of the southeast Asian country's rival forces.

But diplomats and analysts agree that China seems to have little leverage left with the Khmer Rouge as the faction can do now without outside assistance for some time.

There have also been calls, mooted at U.N. headquarters in New York, for Thailand to close its border with Cambodia's Khmer Rouge-controlled areas in a bid to cut off the faction's exports of logs and gem stones, which earn it an estimated 100 million dollars a year.

The lucrative trade is controlled by Thai officers, who are likely to resist any moves to seal the border, leaving the government in no position to stop it even if it intended to.

"You cannot call the Thai-Cambodian frontier a border in the western sense," commented a Thai official, familiar with military thinking. He requested anonymity.

"Trade has been going on there for a long time and business people cannot be stopped from doing business," he added.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's administration, formed in a bid to end the political crisis which led to bloody clashes on the streets of Bangkok last month, cannot afford to confront the military head on, diplomats also said.

As there are still widespread fears of a military backlash following the resignation in disgrace of his predecessor, former armed forces chief Suchinda Khraprayun, "Anan has to watch his steps in his dealings with the military," one observed.

"It would also look somewhat awkward if Anan, who is engaged in an exercise aimed at reducing military influence in Thai politics, were to go to the generals for assistance in pressing the Khmer Rouge into line," he said.

Earlier this week Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin held talks with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan to urge the faction to rejoin the peace process.

But after the meeting Thai officials insisted that it was not possible or indeed, as one put it, appropriate for Thailand to put pressure on the Khmer Rouge.

"They don't see sanctions against the Khmer Rouge as a goer," remarked a diplomat.

They would not even wish to resort to limited measures at the border, such as limiting movements of Khmer Rouge leaders in Thailand or cutting down food supplies to the group, because they are concerned that the Khmer Rouge start "running loose along the border," he noted.

Vietnam

Reports of U.S. POWs in Former USSR Denied

BK170615[illegible]92 Hanoi VNA in English 1352 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 17—The spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry answered questions put by some foreign correspondents about recent reports on the so-called "U.S. prisoners-of-war having been sent to camps in the former Soviet Union."

The spokesperson said: "As we have made it clear many times, we now reiterate that no (no) American, whether it is a defector, deserter, or prisoner-of-war, was sent from Vietnam to the Soviet Union during and after the war."

Commentary Denounces Reports

BK1806110092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports on the transfer of American POW to camps in the former Soviet Union are being spread in the United States. Some reports even said that some POWs are still alive. What is the truth? Our radio provides to you more details.

This is the second time such news coverage has been spread to deny positive efforts taken by Vietnam in the settlement to the American servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam war. First time, it appeared in the former Soviet Union and the second time in Washington. But both of them were rebutted by political circles in the former Soviet Union and the United States.

THE WASHINGTON POST (?in its latest) issue reported that the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, rejected the news and said that they have kept no profiles showing that American prisoners of war in Vietnam were transferred to the former Soviet Union or still alive. The spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Washington on Wednesday denied the news and said that it did not hold that any American prisoners of war were sent to his country and that this is just a fabrication.

In his recent visit to Vietnam, American Senator John Kerry who was heading an American Senate delegation affirmed that there was no evidence on American prisoners of war still being kept in Vietnam or still alive. He made a remark out of his tour of some live sighting places in Vietnam. So that was the truth.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Wednesday, once again, affirmed that Vietnam did not send to the former Soviet Union any Americans either people who had surrendered of their own accord or people who were deserters or prisoners of war.

Hanoi Notes Obstacles To Cambodian Peace Process

BK1406155592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Implementation of the Cambodian peace process in accordance with the Paris agreement has been carried out slowly, while numerous difficulties are likely to emerge in the near future. World opinion has expressed concern about the success of the agreement as its second phase approaches—the phase in which 70 percent of troops of the four Cambodian factions will be demobilized.

World opinion has also noted the remarkable efforts made by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambadia], headed by Mr. Akashi, which is representing the United Nations in carrying out initial tasks including the sending of international military units to Cambodia, fixing sites for stationed troops to verify the cease-fire, and starting the repatriation of 300,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand. All these efforts, however, have faced many obstacles, especially the Khmer Rouge's uncooperative attitude. The Khmer Rouge have not only refused to meet the principled requirements, but have also attempted to obstruct the cease-fire agreement while conducting military provocations in many localities.

One of their shopworn allegations is the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia—the allegation cooked up by them as an excuse to undermine implementation of the Paris agreement. Although their groundless allegations have been rejected by world opinion, including UNTAC, the Khmer Rouge continue to repeat these allegations.

For this reason, when talking about the demobilization of 70 percent of troops of each faction, people have predicted that implementation of the second phase will be more difficult than the first. They doubt effective implementation of the demobilization given the fact that no actual figures for each faction's troops have been listed, especially the Khmer Rouge's scattered soldiers, many of whom are deep in the forests. It is noteworthy that with the aim of threatening the other side during their confrontation, each faction has exaggerated the numbers of its troops. Thus, when actual inspections are carried out, the figures will be different. Moreover, there is no guarantee that there will be mutual trust between the Cambodian factions to work together toward the general elections, as stipulated in the Paris agreement. Each faction wants to gain the upper hand. The Khmer Rouge is actually an opposition force militarily rather than politically.

Many foreign observers hold that the Khmer Rouge continue to receive direct or indirect support from outsiders and that is why they continue to demonstrate a bellicose attitude. As a result, many observers have used the word crisis to describe the present situation in Cambodia. Despite these difficulties, people still hope that the Cambodian Government and Prince Sihanouk's faction will consistently show their wish and goodwill to smoothly carry out the peace process in Cambodia. They believe that the voices and prestige of these forces, at any rate, still have some weight that can change the situation. Moreover, the efforts made by the international community represented by UNTAC and experience gained from the first phase will serve as a good foundation for implementation of the second phase.

Generally speaking, difficulties and obstacles ahead in the second phase are numerous while favorable conditions are fewer. The international community, especially the Southeast Asian nations, including Vietnam, have no desire other than to see smooth implemenation of the peace process in Cambodia. This will benefit not only the Cambodian people, but also people throughout the region.

The second phase of bringing peace to Cambodia has just begun. Predictions, although made on reliable grounds, are but possibilities. The situation is going to change and we should adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

Foreign Press Cited in Condemnation

BK1706124392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] A French daily described as poor justification the argument the Khieu Samphan faction has used to refuse to take part in the second phase of the UN peace plan, namely that the U.N. is not yet inspecting and verifying foreign troops in Cambodia. Our radio contributes the following comment:

The French paper Le Quotidien de Paris says that by producing their argument for its refusal to implement the second phase, the Khieu Samphan faction has made

clear that it wants to maintain its forces while other factions, primarily the Phnom Penh government are handing over their arms and demobilizing their soldiers. The paper points out that Pol Pot and Khieu Samphan are attempting to seize power again.

Radio Australia on Monday quoted Lieutenant General Pan Thai, chief of the General Staff of Mr Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front military force, as saying that his force will bend toward the Phnom Penh government if the Khieu Samphan faction continues to show their negative attitude toward the implementation of the Paris Peace Accords on Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge hangs tough in the military zones in central and northern Cambodia. According to Mr. Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, the United Nations has been very annoyed with the scope and scale of the Khmer Rouge's violations of the cease-fire. The UN held that these moves by the Khmer Rouge are making the second phase of the peace plan all the more difficult and complicated.

The public hope that the Khmer Rouge holds without delay their violations and takes part in the implementation of the second phase of the UN peace plan before it is too late.

Efforts Urged To Achieve Rio Summit Principles

BK1706133392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The earth summit conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, concluded on Sunday evening with the approval of a number of documents on environmental protection. However, whether these documents will be implemented or not is another question. Here is our radio comment:

The earth summit sponsored by the United Nations has ended. State leaders from many countries had expressed their concern about the world environment. Five important documents, the treaty on climate change, the convention on biodiversity had been adopted at the conference. At the last session, the Rio de Janeiro statement was unanimously adopted. This is an acknowledgement of principles on environment. Will these principles be realised or not, this is a question.

At the conference, the United States refused to sign the convention of biodiversity. About the treaty on climate change, many European countries representing the green parties of France, Germany, Britain, and Italy said that the treaty is too general and not detailed.

Besides, Washington said that it would contribute only $250 million to the scheme of environmental protection. With that sum of money, people put a question, where does the $250 million come from to cover the annual spending on environmental protection?

This earth summit has been highly valued as the most important conference of mankind, laying the ground for the coming years, the year 2000. This is the biggest world conference dealing with the global issues, including those about the future of all nations. Stemming from those significances, people hope that state leaders of all nations should put aside their differences and limitations, joint efforts, and assure what has been achieved at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in order to make it worthy of the world event.

Nguyen Khanh Stops Over in Mexico

BK1706150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1351 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 17—Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh on June 16 stopped over in Mexico on his way home from the international conference on environment and development held in Brazil.

In a cordial meeting with Foreign Minister Fernando Solana, Nguyen Khanh expressed Vietnam's desire for further development of the friendship and economic and cultural cooperation between two couuntries.

His Mexican counterpart expressed the Mexican people's admiration for the Vietnamese people's will for independence and freedom and wished for constant enhancement of the economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Finnish Ambassador

BK1806084292 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 18—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here Wednesday Finnish Ambassador to Vietnam Kai Olof Granholm on a courtesy visit to the Vietnamese leader.

At the reception, Chairman Kiet expressed his satisfaction at constant strengthening and developent of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries in conformity with the aspiration and interests of the two peoples. He thanked the Finnish Government and people for their effective cooperation and assistance to Vietnam. He made some proposals for the expansion of cooperation in fertilizer production, ship building farm products processing and consumer goods exchange.

For his part Ambassador Granholm informed Chairman Kiet of the aid of 50 million markkaa (Finnish currency) to Vietnam in 1992, and also of the Finnish Government's commitment to its continuous aid to Vietnam in the 1993-95 period.

Nguyen Manh Cam Greets New Thai Foreign Minister

BK1806091092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] On 16 June, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam sent a message of greetings to Mr. Asa Sarasin on his appointment as minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Radio on SRV Foreign Economic Relations

BK1806134192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The Japanese paper NIHON KEIZAI said Singapore has set a foothold in Vietnam. However, in fact, not only Singapore but many other countries in the ASEAN as well as the world are now enjoying good relations with Vietnam. On this issue, our radio has this comment:

Recently, a number of high level economic delegations from Singapore have come to Vietnam. In terms of trade, at present, Singapore is Vietnam's biggest partner in the region. A joint agreement reached between Vietnam and Singapore allows ships of the two countries to make exchange visits to their ports. These have created favorable conditions for Singapore to have a firm ground in Vietnam.

Besides, Malaysia is the second of ASEAN countries having close relations with Vietnam. It has invested about US$75 million in Vietnam. So far, Malaysia and Vietnam have cooperated in different fields in economy, including the exploration of petroleum in the offshore, as well as the establishment of a bank on the basis of joint venture.

For Japan, recently it has also signed the contract of oil and gas exploration with Vietnam. Multisided cooperation between the two countries have been developed. To cite a few examples, the recent visit to Japan by president of the Vietnam National Assembly Le Quang Dao, the first ever visit to be made by the president of the Vietnam National Assembly, contributed to tightening relations between the two countries, including the relations between the two parliaments.

Meanwhile, the Australia-Vietnam relations have advanced a step forward. In the early April, the Australian Government announced its resumption of direct aid to Vietnam after 12 years of disruption. This is the package aid with the total value of US$76 million, covering in four years.

The relations between Vietnam and France, Britain, Germany, and others have also reported new developments. The French Government have decided to grant Vietnam 130 million francs as non-refundable aid in the year of 1992. Meanwhile, agreements on economic, commerce, culture between the two countries were signed during the Vietnamese foreign minister's visit to France.

While he was in Britain, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam was informed by the British Government that Britain would help Vietnam with $1.8 million in the repatriation and reintegration of Vietnamese refugees living in Hong Kong. The British Petroleum Coorporation (Cartel) in Norway has also signed contract on oil and gas exploitation with Vietnam.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Peace Village for Children

BK1706140792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 16 June, the handicapped children and their female teachers at the Peace Village for Children in Hanoi—which had been built with financial assistance from the FRG Government's International Peace Village (Oden Hadel)—gave a warm welcome to Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet who came to visit the village.

Dr. Nguyen My Hien gave the chairman a briefing, saying that the Peace Village, which was inaugurated on 17 December 1991, accepts for nursing and rehabilitation those ill-fated children who were born disabled due to the consequences of those chemicals formerly used during the Vietnam War, or who had suffered other diseases during their childhood, including hereditary diseases and wounds, which have adversely affected their growth and have made it difficult for them to blend into community life.

Due to its limited capabilities during the early stage, the village now provides in-patient treatment for 30 children ranging in age from three to 10 coming from Hanoi, Ha Tay, Nam Ha, and Nghe An.

The chairman visited an X-ray room, a rehabilitation clinic, and other room and board facilities for the children. He asked Dr. Hien about the state of the children's health, about the nursing facilities and treatment methods of the village, and its initial results obtained in achieving its set goals.

With loving care and affection, the chairman, surrounded by the children, held the hand of Nguyen Van Minh, 10—a child with unmovable leg joints—and cordially asked about his health. The chairman also talked to two mentally retarded children, namely Tran Thi Hien, 7, and her blood brother Tran Manh Ha, 5. He inquired about their family situation, about their state of health, and about the village's nursing service for each of them. Dr. Hien, on behalf of the children, answered the chairman. Finally, Nguyen Van Minh, sitting on a wheelchair, spoke some words to the chairman on behalf of his fellow children.

The chairman was very pleased to note that the collective of doctors, cadres, and workers of the Peace Village had made effective use of their existing material-technical bases to satisfactorily care for the children with profound understanding and immense love, as if they were mothers and aunts who had been assigned a difficult, good-will task by the party and the state.

The chairman welcomed the idea of setting up the Peace Village to alleviate the sufferings of ill-fated handicapped children, to help rehabilitate them in all aspects so they can return to their happy lives as members of the community.

The chairman expressed hope that the Peace Village's activities would be further developed so that it could provide treatment to children in other localities throughout the country, and that through these activities, the village would increase its research on and successfully cure those diseases that cause disability.

The chairman availed himself of this opportunity to urge those organs in charge of caring for teenagers and children, the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee, and the administration at various levels to pay more attention to charity activities reflective of the Vietnamese nation's tradition of human-kindness, especially toward handicapped children.

Tourism Grows in Ho Chi Minh City

BK1606070092 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 16—More than 500 tourist agencies have been licensed in Ho Chi Minh City to meet the fast expansion of the tourist industry. Twenty-five of them have been allowed to do business directly with foreign companies.

At the same time much money has been spent on building and upgrading hotels. Inside the city, 114 hotels are available with a total of 4,038 rooms.

The tourist sector has attracted a great number of foreign investors. Joint ventures involving 233.63 million dollars have been formed to build 2,370 more hotel rooms.

The municipal authorities recently disbursed 8 billion dong for the renovation of public parks and monuments and the expansion of the public lighting system.

Of the 465,000 foreign tourists coming to the country last year about 200,000 went to Ho Chi Minh City. Arrivals in the city are expected to increase 16 percent annually between now and 1995.

Council Issues Decision on Business Registration

BK1606081592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers issued a decision on 5 June concerning the transfer of all those economic organizations which have registered their businesses and which are operating in accordance with Decision No. 268-CT to a new type of business registration and operations in line with the law now in force.

The decision clearly points out that five months after the signing of this decision, all those economic organizations which have registered their businesses and which are either operating in accordance with or applying Decisions Nos. 92-CT and 268-CT must complete all the procedures for founding and for registering their operations as stipulated for appropriate businesses.

At the same time, they must clear up all those remaining problems in organization and in the settlement of contracts. They must not sign any new contracts with terms of implementation going beyond the deadline set for the settlement of debts. For the transfer to a new, more appropriate type of business, or for deactivation if they are found unqualified for continued operations.

Australia

Government Welcomes U.S.-Russia Weapons Cuts

BK1706073892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The Australian Government has welcomed the latest announced cuts in nuclear weapons and urged other countries with nuclear weapons stockpiles to follow suit.

The foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, says the Australian Government is delighted with the cuts decided by American President George Bush and Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, which goes substantially below the numbers agreed in last year's START Treaty. The two leaders say they will reduce their nuclear weapons from a combined total of 21,000 to about 7,000 over the next decade.

Senator Evans told Parliament the move represents a dramatic and extremely welcome reduction in the nuclear armory. He says it gives clear expression of a significantly improved security relationship between the two nuclear superpowers. The minister also called on Britain, France, and China to follow the example.

PRC Minister Agrees To 'Pressure' Khmer Rouge

BK1806102092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] China and Australia have agreed that pressure has to be applied to the Khmer Rouge, threatening them with the danger of becoming an international pariah. After talks with China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen, Australia's foreign minister Gareth Evans said it had been agreed that the Khmer Rouge would be internationally isolated if the Cambodian peace process breaks down.

The two foreign ministers had three hours of formal talks in Canberra today. For more, here is Radio Australia's foreign affairs correspondent Graeme Dobell; he is speaking with Barry Clark:

[Begin recording] [Clark] Graeme, what did Senator Evans say about the discussions on Cambodia?

[Clark] The foreign minister said he was absolutely satisfied that China was firmly behind the Cambodian peace plan and, in fact, Australia went along with the Chinese view that punitive sanctions should not be imposed just yet on the Khmer Rouge. China, he said, believed that sanctions would be heavy-handed at this stage and Beijing's main focus was on trying to determine any genuine concerns that Khmer Rouge might have about the peace process.

Sen. Evans said it was too early to make the judgment that the Cambodian peace agreement had broken down, but if the Khmer Rouge policy of noncooperation continued for very long, it would wreck the agreement and the foreign minister set out a joint view of the pressure to be applied to the Khmer Rouge.

[Evans] In my discussions today, there was a very, very clear reaffirmation by the Chinese Government of the support for the settlement process. They have confirmed to ensure that there is a comprehensive and serious implementation of it by all parties, internal and external, and agreed with the proposition that I put that among other forms of pressure that should be, being applied at the moment, there should be a very clear message delivered to the Khmer Rouge that if the settlement were to break down, they would be utterly and completely isolated. They would be pariahs so far as every country in the world is concerned. There was very explicit agreement to that proposition from the Chinese which I found a welcome reaffirmation of their position.

[Clark] Well, Graeme, the Chinese foreign minister has just held a separate news conference. What did he have to say about the Chinese perspective?

[Dobell] Mr. Qian was much more cautious than Sen. Evans, reflecting Beijing's close relationship to the Khmer Rouge. He did say that China along with other countries had told the Khmer Rouge that they would be isolated in the event of a breakdown, but the Chinese foreign minister said it was necessary to make a careful analysis of the implementation of the peace agreement and he was not prepared to directly criticize the Khmer Rouge for the current problems.

[Qian's interpreter] I think it is still too early to come to any conclusion. But as you know, it took a long time, actually it took several years before the Paris agreement was concluded and the second phase of the implementation of the Paris agreement is a crucial phase because according to the arrangement, the forces of the factions will be put in cantonment and the forces will be cut by 70 percent. It is only natural that some new ideas or considerations may arise in this process. So we have to work on that. [end recording]

Government 'Disturbed' by Sentences in Dili Riot

BK1606104392 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia has told Indonesia it is disturbed at the differences in the jail terms being given to soldiers and civilians following the Dili massacre. The foreign minister, Gareth Evans, told the Senate that Australia's concern had been registered both in Jakarta and during talks in Canberra with a senior Indonesian minister.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Senator Evans said he was disturbed at the discrepancies in the sentences administered so far to Indonesian soldiers and Timorese civilians following the shootings in Dili on November 12.

The sentences in civilian trials for those charged with organizing demonstrations had ranged from six months to 10 years jail. The jail sentences for soldiers charged over the shootings had ranged from eight to 18 months. The foreign minister said the military trials at least indicated the Indonesian commitment to follow through the process begun by the military honor council which investigated the Dili killings.

[Evans] We do recognize that much of the action taken by the Indonesian Government in response to the Dili killings, particularly the public acknowledgement of wrongdoing by the military, does constitute unprecedented action in Indonesia. But, as I have already said, (?we definitely think) it's important that those responsible for the killings be appropriately punished. [words indistinct] that the kind of action that the Australian Government has taken in this respect, I remind you that from the time we thought they can avoid the killings, we made known at the most senior levels in Indonesia our views that those responsible should be appropriately punished and also our views that no one should be detained or punished for non-violent political activities.

[Unidentified correspondent] Senator Evans said he told the Australian Embassy in Jakarta to convey to the Indonesian Government Australia's reaction to the disparity in sentences, and the foreign minister said he had raised this issue during talks in Canberra on Australia-Indonesia relations with Indonesia's senior Economic Minister Dr. Radius Prawiro.

[Evans] I yesterday indicated to him that not withstanding our appreciation to gather all response to the situation, we were worried by the discrepancies in the sentences. I decided finally to clarify to the [word indistinct] that in conveying these concerns now and in the other conversations that I have had with [Words indistinct]. We are not seeking, of course, to interfere in anyway with the Indonesian judicial process. [end recording]